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2 Pinoys shine in Fox's dance contest

No classes today, no work in gov't offices

THERE WILL will be no classes today in all public and private schools nationwide, and no work in government offices, except the Bureau of Customs.

But employees in the private sector, except for workers, will have to report for work today, a public holiday declared by Malacañang in observance of National Heroes Day yesterday.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Anti-GMA groups try 'doggone' protest

By DJ Yap

Monday, August 29, 2005 ● 36 pages / vol. 28 / no. 262

Gordon: No politics in Subic shake-up

Senator says he's not after SBMA post

By TJ Burgonio
in Manila
and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SEN. RICHARD Gordon yesterday scoffed at reports that he had a hand in the sudden resignation of Francisco Licuanan III as chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

Gordon brushed aside insinuations that he influenced the appointment of SBMA Director Armand Arreza, a protégé of the senator, as a replacement for SBMA administrator Alfredo Antonio.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to appoint Arreza, instead of Licuanan's nominee Roberto Garcia, bothered the SBMA chair's supporters, according to sources. Garcia is the president of nationalist lottery maker Ramcar.

"We are not letting (Licuanan) be the resignation of one who already made money at stake" Gordon said in a phone interview, referring to Licuanan, former president of Ayala Land Inc.

"We are not after his job," said the senator, whose SBMA chair.

Rhetoric administration has, Allen Arroyo and Inquirer sources said Saturday that Licuanan was

HERE THEY LIE. Filipinos looking for heroes during the re-enacted mass crazy mobilized many of them at the Libingan ng mga Bayani as the country marked National Heroes Day yesterday. KIMBERLY DE

'Look in the right places, you'll find heroes'

By Luige A. del Puerta

WHERE are the heroes of the new generation?

The mayor of a city where thousands of the country's heroes are buried wonders why the only report usually on people who think of nothing but themselves.

"When I watch the news, listen to the radio or read the papers, all we see and hear is Filipino destroying Filipino. I see people promoting themselves and their agenda at every opportunity to the detriment of their country," Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tiaga lamented yesterday during National Heroes Day ceremonies at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio.

In attendance were government officials, including Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and National Historical Institute Chair Ambeth Ocampo.

August marks the 109th anniversary of the 1896 Revolution and the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

"I see greed. I see indifference. I see apathy. It is the heroes I do not see," Tiaga said at the first wreath-laying place of many soldiers who fought in various wars and of all his who dedicated their lives to improving the nation.

"It makes us wonder where have all the heroes gone," Tiaga said a crowd of about 100, many of them veterans of the two world wars.

The veterans, proudly wearing their caps or in shorts as speeches praised them and their fallen comrades. They must have wondered what happened to

TERROR ON WHARF

28 hurt in Basilan ferry bombing

By Jaime Alipala, Troy Pinlac-Dee and Rudy San Juan
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LAMITAN, Basilan—At least seven people were killed and 28 others injured in a bomb explosion at the Sumisip wharf in Basilan province, police said Sunday.

Police spokesman Senior Inspector Rolando Abad said the explosion ripped through a ferry, a passenger boat, at around 7 a.m., the sound of an explosion ripped through a ferry, a passenger boat, at around 7 a.m.

People screamed. Seconds later, a bomb exploded.

"Definitely, it was a terrorist attack meant to harm and sow fear among the people ... There is a possibility that it was perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf," said Insp. Gen. Raymundo Feria of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade.

At least 20 people were injured in the attack on the MV Doña Ramona yesterday as it neared the entrance from the Coast Guard to call to Zamboanga City with more than 250 passengers on board.

Some of those injured were children.

The bomb went off in the ferry's canteen. It had been apparently installed a few minutes.

The attack occurred 10 months after suspected Abu Sayyaf bombs bombed the Superferry 14 near Manila, killing more than 100 people, and followed warnings from security officials that Jemaah Islamiyah militants had slipped into the country to carry out terror bombings.

Military and local civilian officials said the explosion might have been caused either by an improvised explosive device (IED), a homemade bomb, or time-bombs in motorbikes, some of which had initially said the blast was caused by a leak in a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tank.

Reports swept the ferry as

CHILDREN SUFFER MOST. A wounded boy is carried by a police officer after attack-exploded ferry in Basilan, injuring at least 28 people.

People power illiberal strain of RP democracy

By Armando Doronila

AMID the political turmoil over the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the 2004 presidential election, it is helpful to examine it from perspective from which to view the current crisis.

The perspective raises the issue whether the Philippines has become more democratic after the Marcos dictatorship by People Power I in 1986, or whether democracy has been undermined by "illiberal" tendencies.

This perspective, which allows us to pause from the narrow focus of the moment, sees handing for a showdown in the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, is offered by an essay in the journal Contemporary Southeast Asia No. 1 (2005).

The provocative essay is written by John L. Limaprat, assistant professor of political science at the University of Houston, with the title, "The 2004 Philippine Electoral Political Change in an Illiberal Democracy."

ANALYSIS

Limaprat's thesis is that "the growth of democracy has outpaced the liberalization since 1986, an imbalance that has created illiberal democracy." The essay says the 2004 elections as a window of democracy that illustrates the gap between democracy and liberalism.

It defines "liberal" as "seeking to change the status quo." It recognizes that since 1986, elections have spasmodically but steadily moving away from authoritarian rule, such as the Philippines, political change in the direction of liberalism or democracy must start as a base level."

According to the Freedom Index, it argues that liberalism should begin with the replacement of arbitrary or ill-defined state power with "executive abused

PEOPLE, A12

'Tipping point' of impeach bid reached

By Michael Lim Ubac

A BATTLE royale among members of the ruling House coalition that would settle definitively the fate of the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, lawmakers said yesterday.

Two lawmakers told the Inquirer that the endorsement of the complaint on Tuesday by four lawyer allies who called themselves "young guns" would be "tipping point."

It meant that the move to impeach President Arroyo for allegedly rigging last year's presidential election had transcended party lines, said the lawmakers, who asked not to be named.

The two were referring to Representatives Robert Ace Barbers, Edmund Reyes, Robert Ace Barbers and Antonio Rodriguez.

In a phone interview, Reyes confirmed this, saying: "For us

Petitions flood 'Text Mary' project server

By Clemanie V. Bigueras

ONE LONELY heart inspired the heroine for a boyfriend. Another prayed that her mom would marry her own enough. Others clearly had more pressing problems and needed her divine help so that they could pay off their debts.

The signs of the times are reflected in the packed server of "Text Mary," a mobile phone-based Church project set up to bring Filipino Catholics closer to their faith.

Prayer petitions, mostly asking God's help in their trying times, have been flooding mobile phones as requests to Christ, Saint and Star since the program was launched more than a week ago.

Plus, like "Lord, help us in our financial matters," have become

PETITIONS, A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2005

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Low-pressure area over Visayan seas may enter Philippine territory tomorrow. Weather bureau says there is a 60-percent chance that it will develop into a tropical storm within the next 24 hours. Forecast is valid for Metro Manila on Monday.

Second FRONTPAGE

UN chief backs RP debt-equity plan

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE COUNTRY'S bid to be freed from having to pay all of its ballooning foreign debt got a big boost after United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan endorsed the Philippine proposal for a "debt-for-equity" program.

A euphoric Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday announced that the Philippine proposal for a global "Debt for Equity in MDG Investments" program aimed at reaching the UN millennium development goal (MDG) of cutting world poverty in half by 2015 had won Annan's "crucial endorsement."

"Your proposal to broaden the scale of debt swaps would help provide debt relief and release additional funds for financing countries' activities that are key to achieving the millennium development goals," Annan said in a letter to De Venecia.

The proposal would address the mounting external debt of some heavily indebted middle-income countries, including the Philippines.

Under the proposal, 30 percent of the debt-service savings of lending institutions and creditor-nation commercial banks such as the IMF and the World Bank would be converted to "equity-for-infrastructure and anti-poverty projects that poor countries are unable to finance to meet their national MDG goals over 2005-15."

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his new Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder had endorsed the proposal.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo will present the proposal to the UN General Assembly on Sept. 13 to 16.

The Philippine Ambassador to the UN, Lauro Baja, has been instructed to present it to officials of UN Secretariat, said De Venecia.

But De Venecia stressed that the proposal "does not call for debt forgiveness or for debt cancellation."

He noted that the Philippines, with foreign debts of roughly $55 billion, would be paying about $4.5 billion in debt-service this year.

Under the debt-for-equity proposal, half of this amount would be freed per year so "the Philippines would have the equivalent of $120 billion worth of anti-poverty projects," said De Venecia.

He said this amount alone would "ensure the Philippines would be able to meet all its anti-poverty development goals" since instead of having to service interest payments the money would be used for anti-poverty projects.

A third of the proposed P1.08-trillion national budget this year is allocated to debt payments.

The Speaker has been invited to present his proposal to members of the UN Security Council on Sept. 9 when the addresses some 150 speakers of parliaments from all over the world at the UN General Assembly in New York.

The International Monetary Fund also invited De Venecia to address the IMF board of directors and senior officials to brief them on the proposal's merits.

De Venecia said the Philippines' MDG projects over 2005-15 would cost roughly $6.5 billion in annual investments yearly.

"Our domestic financing capacity for these projects is $1 billion yearly.

"Hence, we face an annual financing gap of $5.5 billion," he said.

"The MDG projects that debtor countries like the Philippines can offer as shares of debt-for-equity investments are infrastructure, mass housing, energy, environment, agriculture and poor-to-rich facilities, local entrepreneurship and health-care projects.

De Venecia's proposal has sparked the interest of the Paris Club, the British Treasury Office and Parliament, Exporting Countries, Latin American Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia is presenting the Philippines' proposal for a debt-for-equity swap which has received the endorsement of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan at a press conference yesterday at the Dusit Hotel.

Revival of diesel engine replacement program mulled

By Blanche S. Rivera

NOW oil prices at record levels, the government has decided to revive the multibillion-peso project to replace the diesel engines of some 200,000 jeepneys to reduce fuel consumption and ease commuters' woes in the process.

The Natural Resources Development Corp. would open discussions on the viability of the engine replacement program (ERPP), a controversial project that was shelved early this year after former MRRC chair Gen. Victor Corpus claimed it was anomalous.

MRRC president Angelico T. Salud said he was working out the modalities stipulated in the memorandum of agreement signed between the MRRC and JI Liong Jeepney (JJI) in February to the DOA satellite implemented.

Under the MOA, JJI and its Italian partner Iveco would supply new engines to the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Associations of the Philippines (Fejodap), which claims more than 60,000 of over 200,000.

The MRRC would facilitate the transaction and would be paid with the interest on the multibillion peso fund.

"When we have a board meeting, I'll present my proposal and I'll ask them if they want to continue with the program. If it's unanimous, it is to go ahead with it," Salud said in an interview.

Salud said he was optimistic the ERP would get passed.

"I expect 15-20 percent savings in fuel consumption for diesel because obviously a new engine would be more fuel efficient than an old or remanufactured one," he said.

He said he would ask Environment Secretary Mikhail T. Defensor to convene the MRRC board next month.

Defensor, who has denied Corpus' allegations that he received P10 million for the ERP, resigned the MRRC chairmanship after Corpus resigned on April 27 in disgust over the ERP.

He has not convened the board since May.

The board—composed of the MRRC president, secretaries of communications, transportation, trade and finance, and the chairs of the Development Bank of the Philippines and National Economic Development Authority—was convened on May 13 when the DOA was discussed.

"I was reminded, when we had that, was additional approval. There are four conditions before the DOA is finally executed," Salud said.

Three of the four conditions required for the execution of the DOA have been fulfilled since the DOA was signed.

These include the publication by the MRRC of an advertisement opening the ERP to other firms, the concurrence by Philippine Export Development Corp. that it would settle the issue of P1.3 million released by the MRRC for an unsolicited engine replacement project that was shelved, and a commitment letter from Philjaya.

"The board wanted to make sure that the major stakeholders are the primary players in bringing in technology, considered unbiased," Salud said.

The only unfulfilled condition was a letter from the Trade and Investment Development Corp.—also known as the Philippine Export Import Credit Agency, saying that there was no application from JJI.

Iveco is to supply a 3,000-million-liter gas-powered van fleet to

Tons of hazardous waste enter rivers, dumps daily–DENR

By Rinalyn S. Rivera

MORE THAN 11 tons or roughly 138,000 kilos of hazardous waste from Metro Manila's health care facilities find their way into rivers and open dumpsites, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources revealed.

The untreated hazardous waste supposedly 41 percent, or almost half, of the total 27 tons generated daily by the 3,674 health care facilities in the metropolis that are registered with the Department of Health.

The waste comes from hospitals, medical schools, funeral parlors, plus nonmedical labs, clinical and veterinary clinics, health centers, blood banks and even research institutes that do not have their own waste treatment facilities and cannot be accommodated in the country's waste treatment plants.

"The water is probably the one in open dumps or rivers and other bodies of water as it has an adverse effect on health," Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor said.

There are only six treatment and disposal facilities for hazardous waste in the country, two of which are in Cavite. The Visayas has none.

The six facilities have the capacity to treat only 16 tons of waste daily, leaving around 11 tons of toxic and hazardous waste unaccounted for, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) director Lolibeth Medrano said.

To address the alarming volume of untreated waste, the DENR and DOH set up a new system that makes proper waste treatment and disposal a requirement for licensing of nosocomials once the law.

Defensor and Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III signed the joint administrative order on the guidelines for the handling, treatment, storage and disposal of the hazardous waste at the DENR office in Quezon City last week.

Aside the law on incineration, we've had problems on how to address health care waste. There was a huge gap in the treatment, and we could not monitor the waste disposal. This is a big step toward addressing that gap," Medrano said.

The joint administrative order followed two years of hearings discussions spanning different DOH and DENR chiefs.

Under the new system, hospitals and other health care institutions are required to register with the DENR as "hazardous waste generators" and submit a waste treatment plan before the DOH would renew their licenses.

Those who do not register with the DENR and who do not have the approved treatment facility or disposal plan would not get their licenses or accreditation from the DOH. Health care facilities must renew their licenses yearly.

The absolute ban from health care facilities includes general solid waste, infectious waste from laboratory work and dressing from wounds, chemical waste like disinfectants and corrosive materials, sharp wastes like needles, syringes and used scalpels, waste with heavy metal content, and pressurized containers.

Some hospitals, like St. Luke's Medical Center, operate their own treatment facilities but the smaller hospitals and clinics have to transport their waste to any of the six privately owned plants accredited by the DENR.

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SPORTS

ALL-PINOY FINALE

Nationals nip Aces, top Brunei tilt

90 days to the 22nd SEA Games

BRUNEI—National coach Chot Reyes issued an appeal to the country's basketball leaders after proving his point with his first international title.

The RP-San Miguel Beer squad continued to make strides to its battle cry the country's back on the latest throne to crippled Abdul Mik, N-of-1, Sunday night to be titular underlord the 5th Hall Bandar Cup of the Bolwad Indoor Stadium.

With the win, Reyes said he hoped the fractured basketball scene both home could be healed.

RP golf bets on target —Juvic

DOT sees gates of Intramuros as tourist come-on

By Jerome Aning

IF FRANCE has its Eiffel Tower and China the Great Wall, the Philippines would have its Intramuros gateway.

According to Tourism Undersecretary for Tourism Services and Regional Offices Oscar Belaunzaran, the historic structure in Manila could be used as the national emblem to symbolize and promote the Philippines abroad.

"Intramuros symbolizes our unique Chinese heritage and European traditions which differentiates us from other countries in the region," Belaunzaran said during the recent Department of Tourism launch of "Guided Manila," a guide to historic walking tours of Intramuros.

Because it is a landmark, the arched gates of Intramuros would make a better symbol than the coconut, cowboy, sayonara or viva, all of which have been used to promote the Philippines, he said.

The Tourism official pointed out that the sabot wooden, mountain resorts and other natural attractions of the Philippines were also found in other countries.

The Euro-Christian culture, however, mixed with Asian tradition was unique to Philippines, he said.

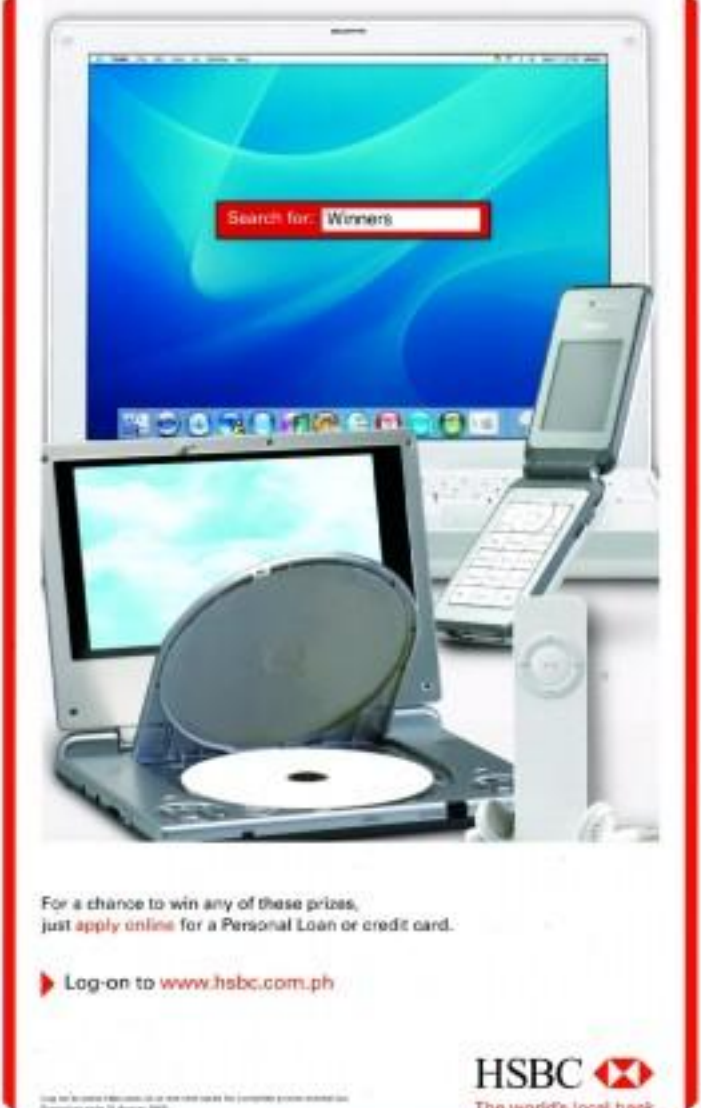
For instance, in East Asia, Intramuros, Roman Catholic Basilicas of the churches and fortress could only be found in the Philippines, Belaunzaran said.

Intramuros, a fortress-like medieval corridor along the Pasig River, was the original city of Manila during the Spanish colonial period. It served as the political, commercial, educational and religious center in the 400-year Spanish rule.

Known also as the "Walled City" or "Old Manila," the complex and several of its buildings have been undergoing reconstruction and restoration since the '70s under the DOT-anchored agency, the Intramuros Administration.

The image of any of the five gates or junction of Intramuros, namely, the Postigo, Isabela, Real, Puerta and Isabel II, could be used as a symbol. The gates were built between 1590 and 1650 and each is unique.

Philippine Tourism Authority general manager Robert Dean Barbers earlier proposed the selection of an infrastructure landmark that could become the byword for the Philippines in the international tourism market, like Cambodia's Angkor Wat, Brazil's favelas, Brazil's Statue of Christ the Redeemer and America's London Bridge.



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 29, 2005
Beheading of John the Baptist
1st Reading: Jer 1:1, 1:17-19
Gospel: Mark 6:17-29

For this is what had happened. Herod had ordered John to be arrested and had him bound and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Herodias married his ex). John had told him, "It is not right for you to live with your brother's wife." So Herodias held a grudge against John and wanted to kill him, but she could not because Herod respected John. He knew John to be an upright and holy man and kept him safe. And he liked listening to him, although he became very troubled afterwards he heard him.

Herodias had her chance on Herod's birthday when he gave a dinner for all the senior government officials, military chiefs and the leaders of Galilee. She (the) received the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, and she delighted Herod and his guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want and I will give it to you." And he went so far as to vow to her, "I will give you anything you ask, even half my kingdom." She went out to consult her mother, "What shall I ask for?" The mother replied, "The head of John the Baptist." The girl hurried to the king and made her request: "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist, here and now, on a dish."

The king was very displeased, but he would not refuse in front of his guests because of his oaths. So he sent one of the bodyguards with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded John in prison, then he brought the head on a dish and gave it to the girl. And the girl gave it to her mother. When John's disciples heard of this, they came and took his body and buried it.

Commentary:

John, the one who was higher the Lord glorious has been revealed by telling of the imprisonment of him who preceded. He king in his religious pity with his brother's wife (he married his brother among many others), and he has called all the members of the church to repentance and conversion. And Herod's love still is shown on telling John since Herod is afraid of him, but was still his because of his people. John lose his head at a party, as a gift or reward for a young woman's dance. He is beheaded and his disciples bury him in grief and loss. His was the voice, hidden in the desert of God, now in the hearts of his people. This was the light in the darkness, bringing hope for salvation, freedom and life. This is the life of those whose lives are not lived to excess or love words, it is the end of all the prophets, but he is Jesus himself. We do not divide ourselves with love the of truth and being sure for what we truly are. Even we go before the face of the Lord, preparing his ways with conversion and word-telling.

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'Tipping point' of impeachment bid reached

From page A1

four. It's our own personal tipping point. When we saw that they were about to kill the complaint, we made our decision."

He said the country was "coming to a crossroad."

"For weeks, the minority failed to produce the magic 79 signatures to automatically transmit the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate for trial," said one lawmaker.

He lamented the seeming "decimvirate" on his the opposition that continued to hamper efforts to get to the 2/3 of the House membership of 226 needed to impeach Ms Arroyo.

So far, only 46 House members have signed the impeachment complaint.

Signal

Another administration lawmaker disclosed that the young guns' decision was the "signal" that 33 other congressmen, who had earlier pledged to support the complaint, would effectively sign up this week.

"The majority is now making the rounds to gather signatures," said the lawmaker.

To get the seal of the 1/3 law makers, three conditions must be met: There must be a direction...clear succession...cause Ms Arroyo is impeached, they don't need to join the opposition, and the proceedings should end soon so that the country can move forward.

Rep. Rodolfo Zamora, lead impeachment prosecutor who ended the President Heidi de Castro would be recognized to the rightful successor if the opposition only needed "a few" signatures.

Asked to elaborate, impeachment spokesperson Rep. Matias Defensor said: "We're looking at a single digit. The number's been encouraging." Lawmakers said six to 10 lawmakers would sign the impeachment complaint today.

Reyes had a message to his colleagues who were having second thoughts about supporting the impeachment complaint because of the latest release of pork barrel allocations, including funds purportedly from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

"If you can combat money for projects, take it and use it for your districts. It's not the President's money or her allies. It's the money of the Filipino people. But only according to your conscience. Don't feel beholden to the administration," said Reyes.

Silent waters

But Lakas stalwart Antipolo del Sur Rep. Ronaldo Puno downplayed the...noting: "Silent waters run deep. But the fact that the opposition lawmakers are noisy about numbers only means that they don't have the numbers."

Three of the 18 members of the so-called coalition bloc within the Lakas-CMD-led administration coalition had already signed the complaint—Bukidnon Rep. Teves and Antonio—and four from the 16-member Nacionalista Party—Marcelita Carpio, Rep. Jamie Chipeco and party-list ally Rep. Joel Villanueva.

The NP lawmakers will play a pivotal role in the crisis since Ronaldo and NP president Sen. Manuel Villar head the local committees in both chambers of Congress which conducted investigations of the wiretapped conversations allegedly linking to 2004 and the "hacking" scandal, respectively.

The size of the signatures should come from the Liberal Democratic Kilusang Pilipino led by Rep. Jesse Robredo (Naga) and Andres Pune, and the Liberal Party, ostensibly led by Rep. Sonia Roxas.

Swing vote

The progressive bloc led by party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano expected the tide to turn in the opposition's favor this week.

"The administration refuses to wait to kill the impeachment complaint this week before the President leaves for New York. But we are not moved. We expect a swing vote this week."

Mariano's vote, in fact...making wave of spending-up protest rage in the House justice committee.

Ronaldo Mercilloni, Mr. Arroyo's impeachment spokesperson, said yesterday that instead of engaging in his mouth debates, the committee could conduct like non-pressure to submit position papers.

"This will expedite proceedings and save precious time," Mercilloni said.

Sen's Arroyo: Senate yesterday said this would weaken pressure at the Batasang Pambansa starting tomorrow.

Do-or-die effort

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said it would mount 5,000 members of the left-wing Bayan and the extreme White Ribbon Movement.

"This could very well be do-or-die for the wounded impeachment complaint. It is therefore imperative for the people to come out to their numbers and thwart attempts at suppressing the truth," Sr. Jose Ramos, convener of the Ghetto Step Down Movement, said in a statement yesterday.

"The administration has tried to scare around the impeachment complaint and it is getting tighter by the day. Ms Arroyo is now emboldened to quash the impeachment either threw you a ball to street protests. Now it's time to regain the initiative," Ramos said.

Bayan secretary general Renato M. Reyes said the President was "pulling all the stops to kill the impeachment." He also...and Mr. Arroyo's call for reconciliation," he said. **With reports from** Jhanche G. Abarca, Alexis Pape and Christina G. Scasbrook

TEACHERS and students display antigovernment banners during a rare night protest calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Manila. AP/FILE

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Petitions flood 'Text Mary' project server

From page B1

all too familiar, revealing the economic woes that seem to engulf most Filipinos today.

One texter prayed that he could call his friends three to a "good lawyer" soon as he could wipe out all his debts. Another (it so seemed hatred in debt; the wants it settled in two weeks.

One sender that his travel papers would be approved soon so he could secure a US visa and work there. But another prayed that her son would land a job as a graphic artist.

Another wanted to join her husband who has been working in Saudi Arabia. Still another was eyeing a job in Canada or New Zealand and sensed desperate for God's help.

Lotto jackpot

"May the lord provide financial assistance for my husband's face and allowance and for the payment of my debts," wrote one petitioner.

Another texter wanted nothing short of a lotto jackpot.

While all these messages clearly reflected the economic ills besieging the populace, organizers belonging to the Blue of Blue Foundation of the Inc. Jaime Cardinal Sin never forget that "Text Mary" was also bringing people closer to God.

"It's an eye-opener for us," Bill Tumulak, one of the foundation's organizers and life's personal photographer for 20 years, told the Inquirer yesterday. "Even if people are preoccupied with mundane things, they're still searching in prayer. Indeed, they have spiritual needs that need to be addressed."

Texting Mary

The observation was endorsed by several petitions, which comprise most of the texts received by Human Management Inc., the company overseeing the "Text Mary" project.

Paolo Reyes, the company's managing director, noted the vast number received on average of 200 system downloads daily while prayer petitions numbered at least 100.

The system works by texting "MARY" to Globe (211), Smart (4624) or Sun (2822). By subscribing (merely sending "BLESS") one will have a petition included in the prayers of the Carmelite nuns.

Punching the word "BLESS" will send one's petition to any of the daily Masses at the Manila Cathedral or at the churches of Baclaran, Quiapo and Antipolo. The keyword "NOVENA" will download prayers good for the next nine days.

Heaven for just P2.50

And it isn't too costly to knock on heaven's door. Each message is worth P2.50.

Reyes said Text Mary had received petitions ranging from the deeply personal to the almost trivial.

The sponsoring has resumed, and to next year Saturday has further flooded the system. So did desperate voices seeking divine intervention for a sick friend or relative.

'Make him marry me'

One texter appealed to be in a quagmire: he's jobless and he wants to secure his investment in a "pyramiding" company.

One mother seemed caught between career and family life. She asked God to grant her desire to be a full-time mother by giving her the courage to resign from her job.

Some petitions concerned matters of the heart and their sudden onset troubled.

"I'm praying that — [man's name] — will keep his promise to marry me really next year and that he will call me soon," wrote one young woman.

Another petitioner texted, asking the Lord to grant her friend's heartsick within the year.

'Look in the right places, you'll find heroes'

From page B1

their dreams of a free and prosperous Philippines.

Alfredo Vasquez, who fought the Japanese as a prisoner of World War II, said the greatest wish "Yo-mendicant" is that the country is "Look at Congress," the 81-year-old veterans said, "they can't even finish important bills."

Vasquez was more likely referring to the impeachment hearing that ended with President Macapagal-Arroyo, which is now taking up most of the lawmakers' energy.

Look in right places

Pedro Gutierrez, also a veteran, said that if the Philippines could only have the right leadership, there was no reason it could not move forward.

But while there was no air of disappointment, Vasquez said there was certainly hope that his sons, Gen. only needed to look in the right places to find them.

"We just need to recognize them," the mayor said. "If they include the best minds in the country, we will succeed. The Philippines has students but university, the professors who refuses to accept a bribe and professors his job despite the dangers and temptations involved.

"They also include the unknown social workers, underpaid but full of devotion, and the countless workers who always showed love to a good provider at home."

Pay attention

"It's not that we aren't paying attention to them," he said.

In his speech, Defense Secretary Gen. Gonzalez Eduardo the men and women "who made the supreme sacrifice."

To these his generation owes a debt that cannot be fully repaid, Gen said.

"I believe the highest form of appreciation is not to offer words but to live by them ... by making our nation safe and worthy of their death and grant us all to live," he said.

For him, the battle has changed and shifted from the trenches of the war front. "Today's battle is fought on our daily lives," he said. "It is fought in the ways we live in responsible citizens."

BSP Chair Domingo spoke about one lesson of history that must never—to learn—avoiding war.

The government is facing a...economic movements: to...this...and a 30-year commitment unemployed.

Amid the the great number of people buried at the Libingan, Domingo said anyone who visits such cemeteries usually "ponders" over values and ideals.

"And yet in a historian, we realize that that never happens," he told the crowd. "Man is so unique that he often discards the wrong path and goes to war again and again."

Tribute

Thus, history has given mankind numerous places and occasions to remember those who died to win, Domingo said.

"By having our annual Memorial Service here, we pay tribute to all living and dead who sacrificially today in making the Philippines the nation that we want to be, or as a historian I should say, the nation that we failed to be," he said.

"Therefore, by remembering today, we see this as a challenge and hope that we get to that future and that good Philippines that everyone aspires for."

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A7

Pre-need firm blames clients

By Aluzin Pope

[illegible] pre-need firm Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI) has fired back at its plan holders blaming them for the failure of negotiations.

In a statement to the business, PPI said the "hardline stand" taken by the plan holders who had organized themselves into the Pre-need Enabling Reform Coalition (PREConInc.) was the reason the talks topped down.

But Philip Pierre, president of PEP Coalition, denied that took a hardline stance and insisted it was the coalition which bent over backwards to accommodate PPI and come up with an amicable settlement.

The two sides have been at loggerheads since April after PPI filed for rehabilitation in a Makati court, saying it could no longer recover its undelivered or open-ended plan holdings.

According to new PPI president Alfredo Ibrao, PEP Coalition wanted all assets and fixed trust funds of Lifetime Plans Inc., a company spun from PPI, reconsolidated back to PPI and that the funding of the open-ended plans "should not be restricted to its corresponding trust fund assets."

"This is contrary to all existing regulations and will be detrimental to all fixed value plan holders. [It] would have the effect of dipping into the separate funds of other plan holders," Ibrao said.

Ibrao also said the coalition disowned a joint statement by the two sides that was presented to media at the onset of the negotiations. He added that the plan holders refused to enter a joint stipulation with the Makati court favoring the rehabilitation case.

In response, Pierre said assets of PPI should never have been spun out to Lifetime. "They (PPI) should have never taken (PPI assets) out in the first place because it was a fraudulent scheme to escape their obligations. Even courts and the SEC [Securities and Exchange Commission] see it that way."

Pierre also denied PPI's claim that they discussed the joint statement and refuted Ibrao's claim that they refused to file a joint manifestation before the Makati court submitting it as the report leaves.

"That is an outright lie. The joint manifestation was never filed because they never filed it. They never wanted it filed," Pierre said.

Nationals nip Aces, top Brunei hoop tilt

NBC selection whips Hong Kong cagers

BANGKOK, Thailand—The NBC National's Spring Selection opened its campaign in the 9th Crown Prince Cup International Basketball tournament with a lopsided victory by whipping Hong Kong, 89-78, at the Nonthaburi Indoor gymnasium here.

The Asian seniors, 9th Dynasty recruitment, 21 points to lead the other Filipinos in double figures.

Also in Starting Five Mangahid, Mel Lavarro, Dondon Villamin and Lowell Reyneses supported Domingo with 11, 11, 10, 10 and 10 points, respectively.

Michael De Vincenzo Apeles, Hoops, Dondon, Spring Cooking Oil, Mango Mix, Jennifer and Hi-Hi, the NBC squad received several double-digit leads before settling for a 49-38 advantage at the half.

"We didn't have time to scout Hong Kong, so we just told the boys to penetrate there and limit their outside shooting," said coaches Al Solis and Ian Noel.

Solis, Noel and Dan Anderson, Laguna Spring's Air Force, paid tribute to their ace guys. "They all chipped in. We just hope we can maintain our form in our games against Singapore, Korea and Thailand," they said.

Line scores

NBC SELECTION 89—Domingo 25, Santos 11, Mangahid 11, Lukman 10, Villamin 10, Reyneses 10, Nieto 8, Ramos 5, Kalaw 3, Lacuna 2, Chua 2.

HONG KONG 78—Au-Yeung Y. Lo 13, Ho 13, Hung Chui Yi Lau Nin 13, Leung L. Hung 6, Kan 6, Chan Hung 4.

Halftime—49-38

Coke, Barako sign Raneses, Najorda

By Jaime Hatayan

CEBUANO bombers Seid Semsen and Sota Hebdulian are Lee Najorda will be key pickups of reinforcements in the coming Philippine Basketball Association season.

Semsen (11) is viewed to be the second round of the rookie draft. Semsen has signed a two-year contract to play for the Coca-Cola Tigers and will receive close to P2 million outside of the team's standard bonuses, an Inquirer source said.

Red Bull first rounder Leo Najorda also remained a two-year deal effective Sept. 1 but please against Dexter Espiritu and the King Mag has been given permission by the Brazilian to play for their hometown and the end of the current NCAA season.

The 24-year-old, 6-foot-4 Raneses, a crafty inside operator, promises to be the real big Cebuano attraction after the Dondon Hontiveros of San Miguel fame.

But with Raneses sharing the rostrum in the small forward spot with John Arges, Bob Hamonquin and Bill Asuncion, he will have to give coach Binky Favis and the Tigers quality minutes to prove his worth.

The hunt is still in Semsen down as number two when he missed the UV Lancers to their game in the 2003 Champions League along with the 6-foot-9-JR Quinahan.

Before joining the draft, Raneses was an active for FEU-Magnolia Dairy Ice Cream in the Philippine Basketball League. Quinahan is still actively playing for Gemma Cross Rosario.

Najorda, the 2002 MCAA MVP, will join Red Bull rookies Leroy Poncelet and Paulo Bugia, who also got first-round deals.

RANESES / Philippine Collegians

NAJORDA / College MVP

Meanwhile, the Lanao Norte governor Buddy Emmanuel is reported to be under his demand to be a lifetime ban on rookie shin Calingasan during the PBA Board of Governors' regular meeting tomorrow on Sept. 9.

Calingasan reportedly left for the United States on the pretext of a graduation degree at the University of Hawaii-Hilo without formally notifying the franchise of his decision.

Encarnado has vowed to throw the book at Calingasan, this year's second overall pick who disappeared after agreeing to a three-year pact worth P1.5 million.

Based on league rules, PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said Calingasan will have time to sit it out for a year and could re-apply to the Gilas Pilipinas program.

Additional sanctions on the 6-foot-1 US-bred playmaker would depend on an investigation by the Commissioner's Office following a written complaint from Mr. Louis Reddy.

Espinosa lifts Iloilo over tough Taguig five

ILOILO CITY—Espino Fondrez Espinosa played brilliantly all game long while overdrive dominated Ruel Balgos to rush coach Jong Uichanco to promote the Iloilo Warriors past Guagua Pampanga Wildcats, Saturday night in the 2001 Fiesta sous-PBL national basketball championship at the University of San Agustin gymnasium.

Balgos scored four of his 12 points in the extra period and Espinosa sank two free throws in the final 1:11 seconds after grabbing the ball following Uichanco's decision to send the fourth-seeded Warriors into overdrive to win the fourth match in 11 games for the 6-foot-3 Balgos, a product of Ruben Tan Jr. and Hong supporter from Ruel Balgos.

Andrey Bautista scored with 1:56 to go after Marco Wedilla Taguig's Taguig capped the lead at 83-83. But Balgos contributed 25 seconds later to shoot the Warriors back on top, 94-85.

Wedilla sent the game into overtime with a trimmer, 79-79, Chris Gonzales to 39.7 seconds.

The loss dropped Taguig (7-5) into a first-place tie with Ale Cortes for the Northern Conference lead in the tournament supported by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, Ralph's Liners, Goodrich Sports Drink, Asterol, Holdens, Hanson's Spring Water, Gatorade and Mango Mix.

The two teams battled to 11 deadlocks, including a 24-and-all tie in the first two quarters.

The Warriors host the Cagayan de Oro Sinsuat at 6 p.m. on Wednesday at the USA gym.

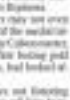
Line scores

ILOILO 94—Espinosa 32, Ibid 12, Balgos 12, Wedilla 9, Gonzales 8, Bautista 8, Lamadrid 5, Lamata 7, Dowd 4, Tolosa 2, Sosa 0, Bolano 0, Pendelton 0.

TAGUIG 85—Gan 29, Manuel 14, Bandola 14, Jalog 3, Zubiri 8, Ilano 0, Lacuesta 0, De Leon 3, Pangan 0, Bandola 0, Ilano 0, Lacuesta 0, Dela Rosa 0, Salazar 0.

Halftime—39-39, 41-41, 67-67, 79-79 (reg.), 88-85 (OT)

Listen, here's what's happening in Magpet



BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IF THE Philippines finally lands the elusive gold medal in the Beijing Olympics, an observant spot in North Cotabato would go down as the place where the good hand started.

But how come nobody is talking about Magpet?

Because it cannot hold a candle to the provincial capital of Kidapawan when it comes to commerce and traffic?

Magpet was indeed be shown as a filling, a quiet town that is unremarkable on the edge of the great Liguasan Marsh whose only claim to fame could be its being the poor place where the tall obsessionist person raised North Cotabato Governor Emmanuel Pinol.

Magpet indeed doesn't fit as a fourth-off stage for a noble intellectual.

But there. They are holding the 1st Mindanao Regional Athletic Meeting Tournament Aug. 27 to 31 in Magpet.

* * *

The tournament itself doesn't seem to stir excitement because doing it in super remote Davao or Gensan opponents or be the hotbed option.

Provinces with no incentive to the sports service of the countries' major dailies, not a bane plug in any of the big television channels.

The Legazpi has therefore requested its Cebu-based boxing writer Sarbon Laguindao to fly in Maggot.

"Competing teams come from Davao del Norte and Panabo City of Congressman Stephen Hilbecado," Laguindao reported yesterday. "Other contingents are Davao City of Mayor Rody Duterte, Surigao del Norte of Gov. Miguel Dominguez and also contingents of the Australian government for supporting the local rowing industry by staging a prestigious race here like the Anglo Cup," said Laguindao.

As a token rising appreciation Balbosa cited Laguindao as "Sagisag Pahayagan" sa mga Taga-Cebu (Representative of Cebu) and "Sugo Lagundi sa Mga Taga-Davao" (Laguindao is the Davao City Mayor's Envoy).

"Akala ko, pag dito nanira sa sabi ng aking mga kaibigan, ako ay mga kalaban. Bali-baligtad ang akala ng mga tao. Dito ako nakakita ng mga kaibigan," said Balbosa, now a Chao Ardiel.

Supposed, a 6-year-old boy Silvestre Dave son of Mayor Joel Lopez, Digos City of Mayor Soy Lumina, Bishop of Gen. Pedro Santamaria.

"That's not a very big field, but hosts North Cotabato is thinking a total of 6 host teams.

* * *

Here's the catch. All eyes will be on the North Cotabato volunteer bosses, while there steals from the neighboring provinces, these champions have undergone special training.

They are the first batch to be initially handled by Cebuo coach Honorato Espinosa.

The North Cotabato boxers may not even make it to the quarter-top half of the medal tallies, going by the limited time the Cebuo coaches, who produced his country's first boxing gold in the 1972 Munich Olympics, had locked at their fists.

Espinosa, in case you were not knowing when Gov. Pinol was trying to sell him to be, went on to produce a total of 27 gold medals for Cebu in World and Olympic boxing competitions.

Espinosa has been quietly working here for the past nine months, after his services were personally requested by Gov. Pinol from Cebuo boxing officials in a trip to Hawaii last March.

* * *

Pinol says to Cebu as representative of the League of Provinces of the Philippines whose members, numbering close to 70 governors, have decided to do their share to national sports development.

And, maybe for the first time in the Philippines, the sports programs of these provincial bosses will lead evidences to what would be called a truly relevant grassroots talent discovery and development.

The field in Maggot, mostly one foot pass, should provide coaches in the diverse cultures, full-scale sports competitive edges which most national sports bodies regularly encounter only in empty press releases.

Noisy, publicity and talkative leaders often host national athletes to extravaganza.

Maybe, that is the reason this medieval provincial governors don't seem to mind if they had spent a fortune in fielding teams, with practically no profit or mention in the press.

It might as well go that way quietly but not effectively.

Manuel Luis Quezon, Filipino, a silent hard worker, opposes ruthless manic obsessive drives should have golden trails in the long run.

Espinosa is set to pick his first batch of national trainees from the Maggot meet.

And whether the caretakers of the small, public school, if often noisy, unfriendly sports hierarchy likes it or not, these new, quiet talents would be powers in riches with in forthcoming national boxing eliminations.

Four, Maggot, the road may lead all the way to the Olympics.

BAP lied on true Fiba status, Moying claims

PORTILLO

THE BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines had long bombarded the public on the status of the country with the international basketball federation (Fiba) and the international federation it had been a member despite in receipt of such assistance from the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Records from the POC indicated that the BAP received $1,000 last May 31, 2000 for the purpose of helping the Fiba extend their membership CO of a certain $10 and the projection fee of $200. The BAP is responsible for paying dues of international referees amounting to $50 per official per year and the money should not come from the POC.

A letter from Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann dated on Aug. 24 acknowledging receipt of $2,460 from the BAP also confirmed that the association had been relegated to "zone-supported zone" status by saying that BAP has been "re-affiliated with full rights."

Mr. Baumann's letter is a clear indication that the Philippines had been suspended and hence can only resume full rights after payment of all arrears," said Mamaliu, a former BAP ace guy who was also a Philippine Basketball Federation.

The informational explosion stipulates that a Fiba member is able to pay its dues for a period of three years in succession to be reinstated and not lose its right to participate in official Fiba tournament.

"It was hard times associated prior to the payment made by BAP recently which can be narrated. Based on the said statement, the BAP only means that when Fiba found the money last July, the Fiba was merely applying the prohibition on associated members. If this is the case, BAP is guilty of deception of the highest order," Mamaliu said.

On said statement, the POC directed the BAP the amount $1,000 to Apr $2000 income for international federation dues. Aside from that, the BAP also obtained a $2,000 financial assistance from the POC to pay for previously unpaid Fiba dues.

As per records, he added that the BAP also has a pending $1,000 bill with Fiba Asia, which it tried to pass on to the POC using spurious circumstances showing that the actual dues with Fiba was $1 and not Fiba Asia.

Balboa shines as Esguerra's coupled imports finish 1-2

By Edwin Villanueva, Contributor

ALMENDRAS and Ang Siao proved a formidable duo yesterday securing a 1-2 finish for leading tournaments Hector Esguerra in the 2001 William Inglis-Australian Cup at the Santa Ana Park.

Former apprentice star Louie Balboa and Siappened to the first morning the home turn, smashed for the opposition and found out to be the last two strides to the wire that it was the best three-jockey Ang Siao, who was aspiring to re-unite his two British-owning coupled entries.

"I'm so happy my former mentor got Gerlando and I'm also grateful to the Australian government for supporting the local racing industry by staging a prestigious race here like the Inglis Cup," said Esguerra.

As a token rising appreciation Balboa cited Laguindao as "Sagisag Pahayagan" sa mga Taga-Cebu (Representative of Cebu) and "Sugo Lagundi sa Mga Taga-Davao" (Laguindao is the Davao City Mayor's Envoy).

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And whether the caretakers of the small, public school, if often noisy, unfriendly sports hierarchy likes it or not, these new, quiet talents would be powers in riches with in forthcoming national boxing eliminations.

Four, Maggot, the road may lead all the way to the Olympics.

Entries finished third followed by Pretty Bully, Silver Royal Lumina, Lolito, Grand and Skinny Dave.

The four Inglis-A-related Supplement, who timed 1 minute 40.0 seconds (24.0-24.24-24.36), passed Order of Authority and opened up a five-length lead at the last turned until Pretty Dave came charging hard to wind up a close second.

Earlier in the day another Esguerra bet, Gang Hu, blazed the Stakes in the Northern Jockey Premium and under "Effective" Jesse Haze, while Golden Lad upset Dear Bonds in the Australian Capital Territory Sprint with Jesse Bondoc on top.

GOING TO THE DOGS! With expressive banners mailed to the Letter House, critics of President Macapagal-Arroyo resort to using dogs to dramatize their call for her removal.

Anti-GMA groups try 'doggone' protest

[illegible] protests to oust Ms Arroyo over allegations she stole the 2004 elections, their canine counterparts joined the anti-Arroyo rallies.

About 15 mongrels wearing anti-Arroyo ribbons and carrying signs reading "Dog ibigin si Gloria GMA" paraded along with their handlers at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City for what might be called a "doggone protest."

Organizers from Anakpawis and other members of Bayan Muna initiated and they chose to use dogs in their campaign because they were the Filipinos' "betrat (gutom)," who protect homes from burglars, in the same way the people ought to ground uprisings like this.

The dogs appeared excited by the hoo-rah shows, barking and wagging, as placards, photos clicked away. They were all mixed breeds, or mongrels, but some joked the masks were "Japanese pooch," a misuse of Japanese spitz (and Sergeant).

One of them was 4-year-old Gil in dog years) Santana, after the nickname of American jazz musician Louis Armstrong.

It was the second mobilization for the hermes and urban hustle of energy, who also attended the pro-Erap of the Makati concord rally above EP (for you and Jo Marya of the Committee for the Defense of Lowers).

Join hoo-hoo shows his "distrust" of Ms Arroyo as early as the campaigning was hot-wet, said Rivera. "Whatever the GMA campaigners were outclassing, he always has lied."

If Santana and others were by themselves, another canine brought strength to unite family.

Buda, 3, was joined by his mate Pinky, 3, their five pups—and his friends of deadpoints.

They crowd owner said he white-faced Buda uses a canvas stroller, having attended at least seven demonstrations at the Mendiola Bulwarks and Bonifacio, among of the venues.

People has become used to big crowds, as well as people who like to put his shaggy fur, Miranda said.

On the other hand, it was the first time for Pinky, who had only begun to take to change people recently, he added. The pups, which were only a few weeks old, were handed from one protester to another, looking adorable.

Miranda said it was only right for the animals to join anti-Arroyo rallies as dog food might soon become history when the 10% imposed value-added tax comes into force and makes it no longer affordable.

But Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran put another spin to the canine protest.

He said while the device was probably "the newest and greatest toppling of imperialism," there were puppies in the crying than dogs.

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Davenport beats Mauresmo for Pilot Pen tennis crown

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut—Lindsay Davenport won the Pilot Pen championship Saturday, defeating Amelie Mauresmo of France, 6-4, 6-4, after missing nearly two months with a back injury.

Davenport, who was using the Pilot Pen as a tuneup for the US Open that begins Monday, showed few signs of inactivity, winning the tournament without losing a set. It was Davenport's first title in New Haven, where she had lost four times in the final—three times to Venus Williams and once to Jennifer Capriati.

"That was a big test for my back," Davenport said. "It was really important just to play some matches and hopefully get the rust out of my game. Obviously to win the tournament and go into New York with that under my belt is a great feeling."

Though her appearance in the final guaranteed she'll overtake the world's No. 1 spot from Martina Hingis, Mauresmo on Monday. Davenport will be seeded second at the US Open because the draw was set the week.

Jelena Dokic, who grew up in Australia, will face Spain's Felicisimo Lopez in the men's championship Sunday. Dokic defeated a close match with second-seeded Serbian Venus Vaveson, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (3), 6-1. AP

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US OPEN

Gals spotl

NEW YORK—Maria Sharapova past few days, unveiling her the diamond-encrusted wat three appearances and medi

Serena Williams, meanwhile, made a TV appearance, too, and gave a sneak peek of her new fat glove, which won't even be available until now spring.

All that, and the US Open hasn't yet started.

"Obviously there's more sexy let's say, they about more skin, all those sorts of things, and they talk more about that than actually their husband and husband. We've been much more about, 'What's your preparation?' 'How's your husband doing?'" said Roger Federer, who does have his own endorsement line.

Asked to elaborate, though, the women have the groundstrokes to go with their gabs.

While Federer is the table on favorite on the court's side, the women's tournament is wide open. Sharapova, Williams, Jar top seed, Serena, Lindsay Davenport, Jim Clijsters, Jennifer Hen...

Creame up by 1

DUBLIN, Ohio—Despite ch with rues leagrye, Hanks Cre moved closer to clinching th GA Tour rookie of the year ny by shooting a 6-under 66 today to take a one-stroke after three rounds at the Nes Championship for Children.

Creamer, who won the Ry and Dubai championships this year, sat back up the ri title with a win. That would her an (non-exemptable lead Morris last in the points ra bags (but determine the awar

The 30-year-old won or 11 del 209 after three rounds of ran Hobbs Golf Club, one sh front of Cristie Kerr and L four ties.

Kerr matched Creamer's while Kang shot a 69.

Araneta Leisure Guide...

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1 THE GREAT RAID	6 VALIANT
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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

SYMPHONY OF THE HEART: GARY V	ADIDAS KIAN STREETBALL FINALS 2005
NCAA CHEERING COMPETITION	THE CASCADES ENCORE

CENTER EVENTS

NEW STORES	Planetario (Ground Floor), Duck Dash (Ground Floor), Naturalista (Level 2) & Pancake House (Level 2) now open at Gateway Mall
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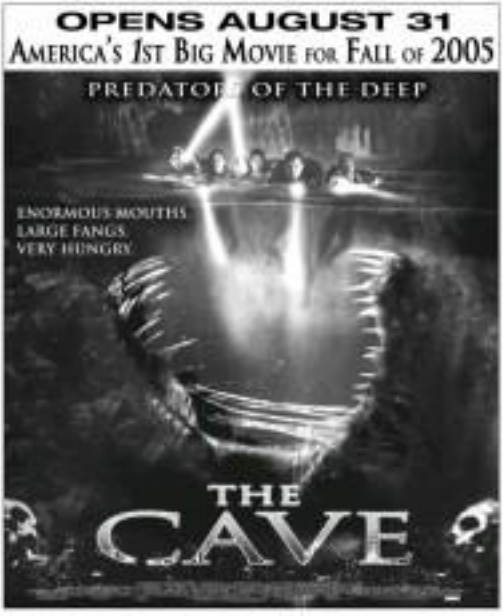

The WORLD

Edita Lucrecia B. Suarez

Suicide blast hurts 20 in Israel

BEERSHEBA, Israel—A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in southern Israel on Sunday, wounding more than 20 people, in the first such attack since the eviction of Jewish settlers from Gaza and the northern West Bank.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast in Beersheba, three days after troops killed five Palestinians in a raid on a militant hideout in the West Bank city of Tulkarm, drawing a vow of revenge from the Islamic Jihad group.

The explosion, at the entrance to Beersheba's central bus station, followed a call by US President George W. Bush for the Palestinians to respond to Israel wouldn't pullout from occupied Gaza by shooting "they will fight terrorism."

But Shafi, who hopes the Gaza withdrawal will help revive a US-backed peace "road map" envisaging a viable Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel, stopped short of demanding President Mahmoud Abbas dismantle militant groups.

Minutes before the explosion, Israel Radio broadcast a pledge by Abbas to maintain indefinitely a ceasefire he declared along with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in February's.

According to the agreement, the truce is continuing and it's not linked to a time ... and everyone knows that," Abbas told the radio.

Palestinians militant factions have said a "period of calm"

they announced in March at Abbas's urging will expire at year's end. They have vowed to continue armed resistance following a Gaza pullout they claimed as a victory.

Police said the bomber tried to board a bus at the start of the Israeli work week but threw the device's suspicion and blew himself up accurately shortly gave chase.

"The driver signaled to two security guards to go to him," Gil Bader, the police chief for southern Israel, told Army Radio.

"These two security guards admirably prevented an attack that could have been a lot worse."

A police spokesperson said at least 22 people were wounded in the blast, the two security guards seriously.

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Palestinians chief negotiator Saeb Erekat condemned the bombing.

"We believe resistance effort must be carried by both sides to establish the truce because it's in everybody's interest," he said. "What's needed today is not more violence but more peace."

Israeli Vice Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told reporters the attack "proves again the Palestinian authority has to do a lot more in order to stop the terrorists, and I promise you that we'll continue to fight against them everywhere."

A suicide bomber last struck on July 31, killing five people outside a shopping mall in the coastal city of Hasaniya.

Beersheba was last hit by bombings a year ago, when eighteen were killed by two successive buses, killing 16 people. Reuters

Europe picks up the pieces as floodwaters recede

GENEVA—Floodwaters were receding in Europe Saturday following a week-long crisis which left at least 70 people dead across the region and cost of the continent.

Meanwhile, across the continent, in parched Portugal, six lives burned out of control in the northern and central regions of the country suffering its worst drought in 60 years.

In Romania, hardest hit from the floods with a death toll of 33, another six and the torrential rain which fanned the flooding should rail off by the end of the weekend, with fine weather expected to return by Monday.

Water levels were also dropping in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Bulgaria and Poland.

In Romania's central Hungary region, authorities listed the continued the search for two people who were still missing, but the chances of finding them were said to be slim.

Health officials there on Friday said there was a risk of disease, with sewers smashed by flooding and hundreds of animal carcasses everywhere across the waterlogged streets of the region's villages.

In Switzerland, inhabitants of communities overturned to the face of floods and landslides were slowly resuming home.

In the Bucharest region near the capital Bern, around a thousand residents were back in the villages they left behind as flood waters fanned from the Aare on Monday and Tuesday.

In Bern itself, authorities said that 2500 people who were forced to clean a low lying district where the Aare river has lit its banks would be able to go home over the weekend.

In the nearby lakeside town of Thun, the water level was dropping by around 20 cm a day and the flood alert was expected to be called off by Monday, officials said.

Across the country's flooded areas, rescue workers continued to clear river banks and other debris which had clogged water courses, threatening bridges, locks and dams.

Further east, however, some residents were ill fortunes.

In the village of Technikeil, in the Hungarian, authorities were looking for bodies are looming for around 70 people.

Although floodwaters had subsided, up to 40 homes in the village were still uninhabitable.

Six people were killed in Switzerland during the flooding, with one victim's body discovered in a lake in neighboring Germany after being washed more than a hundred kilometers down a river.

In Bosnia, in southern Germany, where one person died, police and water levels were falling in the Danube river valley, the many fields remained flooded.

Russia, near the border with the Austria, was no longer threatened by the Danube. The river level had fallen to 8.3 m — two less than during a previous flood in May in 2002.

But the water level remained high in Ruhig, on the last river which feeds into the Danube, which was protected by sandbags.

In Austria, only the Alpine community of Gargellen in the western Vorarlberg region was still cut off, with the military evacuating to ferry supplies by helicopter.

However workers there said they also had plans in place to evacuate 300 people, half of their remain. AFP

Burma junta dismisses coup rumors, says chief in charge

BANGKOK: Burma's leader Senior Gen. Than Shwe remains in good health and in charge of the country, Information Minister Kyaw Hsan said Sunday, dismissing rumors to the contrary that have circulated this week.

"Senior Gen. Than Shwe's health is good and he continues to handle his responsibilities," said Kyaw Hsan.

"There are concerted efforts by dissidents, with the support from some foreign powers, to try to destabilize the nation by coining up with all these false stories," he told a press conference.

"Everything is normal here," he added. "Myanmar is being ruled under collective leadership under Senior General Than Shwe."

Rumors of a coup within the military regime emerged on Tuesday, apparently triggered by an interview on the BBC's Burmese-language radio that said the junta's number-two, Gen. Maung Aye, had overthrown Than Shwe.

Later in the week, reports began circulating that 72-year-old Than Shwe, who has a history of ill-health, had been flown to Singapore for medical treatment.

"He has not traveled anywhere, and right now he is at the new office (military headquarters), where he goes every day to do his duty," Kyaw Hsan said.

The Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had on Thursday dismissed the rumors, and diplomats in the capital Bangkok said they were extremely sceptical that there had been any change in the leadership.

The speculation died down by the end of the week, but once before causing the kyat currency to weaken and sending the price of gold higher as citizens reacted to the uncertainty.

Access to information is tightly controlled in Myanmar, the former Burma, and citizens rely on foreign radio broadcasts as well as an active rumor mill to find out what is going on in their own country.

Obviously stung by the affair, the notoriously secretive regime organized Sunday's rare press conference, where Kyaw Hsan also expressed that three government officials had been appointed to handle such queries in future.

Representatives of the foreign ministry, the information ministry and the home ministry were named to offer fax and e-mail addresses.

"These three people will be given the responsibility to answer any questions by anybody who is interested to know the truth," Kyaw Hsan said.

The speed with which the rumors spread is an indication of how sensitive Burma's population remains after sweeping purges last October that removed the junta's number-three, Prime Minister Khin Nyunt.

Since then the regime has been conducting an ongoing campaign to reorganize the hierarchy and promote its staunchest loyalists, with no sign of orderliness in recent months involving powerful military leaders and government ministers.

Khin Nyunt, seen by some observers as a somewhat more outward-looking figure in the hardline regime, received a 44-year sentence handed down last month after being convicted of bribery and corruption.

Diplomats and political observers in Rangoon said the rumors that Gen. Maung Aye and his allies had taken over could also have been fueled by anxiety surrounding the health of the grandchild this week.

Their real Than Shwe went with Myanmar to visit the military hospital shortly before the scheduled customs-service in what was supposed to have been a public show of solidarity after the recent shake-ups. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Sharon son in sleaze mess

JERUSALEM—A controversial cabinet-level Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's son Omri Sunday is suspected of illegal activities in the fundraising efforts for a leadership campaign, police sources said. Omri, who is an MP for his father's right-wing Likud party, was charged by the tribunal in Tel Aviv with illegally taking false testimony and falsifying documents in connection with the 2002 campaign for the Likud leadership. Prosecutors have said that a company controlled by Omri raised funds for Sharon's leadership campaign from companies in Israel and abroad worth some $1.2 million, which were all illegally pledged over his father's campaign. The prime minister himself has always maintained that he had no knowledge of the financing of his campaign, saying it was run exclusively by his son. AFP

Category 4 Katrina

MIAMI—Thousands of people fled New Orleans and other low-lying parts of Louisiana early Sunday as storm-tossed Katrina gained strength again as it churned toward the US Gulf of Mexico coast. Katrina first struck Florida's Miami-Dade county at the tail of a tropical storm late Thursday in southern Florida, flooding some neighborhoods, uprooting trees, sending airfighting commuters combing town and leaving motorists in a million people without electricity. The National Hurricane Center said that at 5:00 AM Central time Katrina was the size of the entire state of Florida and had sustained winds reaching 220 km per hour, which makes Katrina a category four storm. The designation brings Katrina close to Killer storms on the Saffir-Simpson scale used to measure them, but only just greater. AFP

Improved English rewarded

TAIPEI—The Taiwanese government is offering incentives to encourage civil servants to improve their English as part of efforts to advance the island's competitive edge, it was reported Sunday. The Cabinet-level Central Personnel Administration announced Saturday that from Sept. 1 more than 200,000 civil servants would get extra promotion credits if they pass different levels of the General English Proficiency Test or score officer English tests. AFP

Nigerian veep's home in US

WASHINGTON—US federal agents have searched the US home of Nigerian Vice President Atiku Abubakar as part of an international anti-corruption probe, officials disclosed late Saturday. FBI Department spokesperson Joanne Moore said the search of the house located in an upscale Maryland suburb of the US capital took place on Aug. 3, but declined to provide details. Bola Ajumobi, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the search was part of a federal Bureau of Investigation probe of suspicious telecommunications deal that allegedly involves Nigeria as well as US Congressman William Jefferson of Louisiana. AFP

Floating runway

TOKYO—Japan and the United States are considering building a floating runway off southern Japan to ease tensions between residents forced to live under the noise of US military planes, a report said Sunday. AFP

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Beyond numbers

EDITORIAL

BY THE POLITICAL opposition's own account, today is make-or-break day for the impeachment initiative against the President. In truth, opposition leaders have at least until tomorrow to muster the 79 signatures they need, before the House Committee on Justice reconvenes to conduct what may well be the make-or-break vote. And they have 10 session days to gather 79 votes in the plenary to override an unfavorable committee decision. But there is no question that in the impeachment numbers game, they are nearer break than make.

If one of the lawyers assisting the opposition told it straight in a cable news interview last Friday, the pro-impeachment camp started to focus on the pursuit of the necessary signatures only late in the day.

"Without the 79, it's over, and that's why in fact, I have allowed the congressmen to take the lead in this initiative. I have asked the legal to take a back seat because what we are witnessing now is a political play more than a legal play," lawyer Harry Roque told ABC's "Dateline Philippines."

Politics, of course, is addition, and the critical truth is that the opposition is behind in the fateful numbers game.

But is this all there is to the crisis of legitimacy enveloping the President? Does the mastery of the controversial and revelatory Hello Garci tapes clear-up—is it explained away—with a party-line vote in Congress? Do the questions about the President's possible abuse of government resources to cover up alleged election fraud simply go unanswered, because fewer than one-third of all congressmen found any of the impeachment complaints deserving of support?

We find it hard to believe that a premature up-and-down vote in the justice committee is or can be in the country's best interests.

For one thing, it will deepen popular cynicism about the role of national institutions in public life. For another, it will not resolve the crisis confronting the President. On the contrary, a precipitate vote that leads to the junking of the impeachment complaints will only deepen the crisis. President Macapagal-Arroyo will end up presiding over the United Nations Security Council next week with the bounds of legitimacy laying more loudly, and snapping more aggressively at her heels.

A vote based merely on political arithmetic will also cheapen the language of the Constitution itself, and of the jurisprudence on impeachment that has arisen over the years. Surely, it is a matter of significance that, while the responsibility for the impeachment process is borne by the most political branch of government, the Constitution is careful to attach legal and judicial requisites. Impeachable offenses are delimited; verification and sufficiency in form and substance are required, and properly promulgated impeachment rules called for; the "sole power" to "try and decide" is vested in the Senate, with the presence of the head of the judicial branch of government mandated when it is the President "on trial." Not least, the outcome of the Senate trial itself is phrased in terms of acquittal or conviction.

Also, the innovative provisions on the Ombudsman, the chief government lawyer in anti-graft cases, are also to be found in the same Article in the Constitution.)

What this all means is that, while remaining a primarily political process, impeachment must meet fundamental standards of reason and of law and justice. How, one may ask, can that be possible in an intensely partisan, almost poisoned atmosphere? Through a political compromise that is based on reason and the law. For instance: The committee can adopt the formula first put forward by administration Rep. Constantino Jaraula of Cagayan de Oro City. Allow the original impeachment complaint, which alleges betrayal of public trust, to be amended by the third complaint, but only by those parts that allege the same impeachable offense.

That compromise, or others like it, will allow the two sides to meet halfway. It will strengthen the impeachment case and thus add much-needed credibility to the process; at the same time, it will penalize the opposition for using the process as a lot, rather than the first, count. Not least, it will be a political arrangement based on reason and justice, acceptable to men and women of good will.

Beyond numbers is reason, lucidity, reason is conclusive.

MMDA needs PNP help

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

All seem as it was since the last impeachment rally. The statue of Marcelo H. del Pilar in the old Path in Malate became the subject of much discussion. The handiwork of sculptor Julie Lluch, the statue depicts a standing Del Pilar (pen name: Plaridel) holding aloft his left hand a copy of *La Solidaridad*, while pointing toward the sky with his right hand.

What is he pointing at? What is the meaning of "the index finger"? Is the statue being suggested many speculations, both serious and flippant.

Sculptor Lluch said Plaridel "is pointing a finger in the absence of the Spanish gendarmerie, explaining that only ... the democratic feeling dictates of the Filipino."

Not only the absence of the Spanish colonial government has also the absence of our own tyrannical governments and other colonial powers. In modern times, said some observers.

Is symbolism a warning to our leaders, just like a finger that a father wags at his naughty child, said others.

Others have their interpretations. He is pointing at the wrong finger, say our leaders, telling them that they are to blame for the mess we are in now.

He is pointing to Cesar Virata, warning our leaders that Cesar is the one who will be taking.

He is pointing to me she we remind fellow journalists that the possibilities for using guns are limitless.

He is warning the powerful and abusive of their own mortality as if saying "hang him kidney!"

One journalist even said that Plaridel is thinking the opposition campaign sign—the index finger—of Fernando Poe Jr., the opposition's popular presidential candidate who, his followers fervently insist, won the six-way three-cornered race in the 2004 elections.

Plaridel is also idol of Filipino journalists because he never wavered in his fight against the Spanish colonizers: a fight he carried out through his writings in *La Solidaridad*, the opposition newspaper he founded and edited. Besides, journalists identify with him because, like them, Plaridel lived in person, we presumed but never grew up.

With the statue in place, lamabang Pandan, the association of journalists that sponsored it—together with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza—the movement, plans to host a retreat in the park dedicated officially and legally to the Philippine "Index Finger," where members can think over the government and its officials without fear. It will be our monument to freedom of expression.

By the way Batasang Pambansa (Batasan) old-timer Raul Roco has just been appointed both of journalism, is aptly named to Malate. It is now the owner of the street named after Marcelo H. del Pilar and the street named after Teodoro M. Kalaw, another journalist during the Spanish colonial regime who participated in the famous editorial regime who participated in the famous editorial "Sino Ito Kapitan" (Who is? Now, referring to the mentioned. "The Prime Pigs" is open to the public.

* * *

We cannot find a better chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority than Bayani Fernando. All his predecessors in the MMDA and Metro Manila Commission were unable to open the streets and sidewalks of Metro Manila. It is only Fernando who has tried and is still trying to enforce the laws that could restore order. Nobody has been able to clear the sidewalks and put a little order on the streets so much as he did.

It is the sidewalk vendors and drivers who are opposing his tasks, naturally, because they are being forced to obey the law for the first time in many years. And they have the sympathy of some of the motorists because they are there. But the motorists, simply or all together, cannot overwhelm Fernando's policemen. President Macapagal-Arroyo did right in declaring her support for her MMDA chair.

I have a few suggestions, however, that I hope will help improve the traffic situation in Metro Manila. One: The MMDA should not waste the help offered by PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao in order to traffic aides.

The MMDA wants exclusive jurisdiction over the main streets of the metropolis, allegedly because of long sidelines. But are MMDA officials so naive as not to suspect that many of their traffic enforcers are evading duty? Even if they are not, drivers on see intimidated by the MMDA enforcers because most of them don't really know the traffic rules they are supposed to enforce. In fact, their use as enforcers because they are barriers perhaps sidelines.

The enforcers know their shortcomings and therefore confer them as a collective inferiority complex. So they overact, arguing and misbehaving in violation of laws. They are confronted with standing in the middle of the streets and waving their arms at vehicles as they can be seen by their superiors. Even if all traffic is brought to a stop by the "signals" of the traffic drivers, an MMDA enforcer without knows his spot to make the traffic flow, he has no decide at all to make drivers and pedestrians obey traffic rules. To him, it is just a job. As soon as his superior goes away, he disappears... where to is a big mystery.

In fact, realizing the shortcomings and feelings of inferiority of their enforcers, the MMDA management has seen to their rescue by limiting contact between them and the drivers. The vehicles of erring drivers are simply towed up/ticket, copies of which are sent to the owners with instructions to pay the fine at the motorist bank.

While this lightens the work load of the MMDA and increases its collection from fines, it does not give any warning to other drivers not to break traffic rules. They see this vehicle blatantly violating traffic rules and nothing happens to the drivers, not knowing that a private has been taken of the vehicle and paid the fine. Violations will come later. All they see is that a motorist has gotten away with a violation, and they think, so can they.

Footnote to lunacy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WANTED to write about it last week, but thought there were more important things to talk about, like Boss Jacqui's life and thoughts. Some passed away the other Friday at 100. Not me before judging epically to make that world lesser for us.

What I wanted to talk about was Mike "Tank Yan" Velarde's proposal for peace-sharing between GMA and Erap. Well, there is one thing Velarde and GMA have in common: Both is ripe. They do not just talk out loud, God rains on them. Or on her them. The difference, though: Velarde has pulled out some time ago. You talk to God, you're praying. God talks to you, you need help.

The last time God spoke to GMA was to tell her not to resume the position she stole from PJV in particular and the people in general. That was the implication of her statement that she would not run in 2004 because she felt that the people wanted her to go. God himself/herself, and nothing, not even the fate of having been caught cheating, justified getting her term limit in. That was shortly after she claimed the Reps, too, spoke to her in response to heroic inward, after everyone else had done so, to get lower the duly elected Erap from office. So that the Reps was done.

What am I say? That nine deals have redeemed her head.

As to Velarde, I don't know why God keeps ordering him to wear bright's colored plaid coats and ties. It's enough to make you answer to another birth, one possessed of a God that has better spiritual taste. If not decision or attain eloquence.

But frankly, I wouldn't have minded seeing GMA, Erap and Velarde on stage, linking arms, with Jose de Venecia, Noli Russia, Mike Defensor, Prospero Pichay and Raul Gonzalez Jr. (and those cheering them on, and, of course, Mike Arroyo making his hands over their heads, invoking God in Shia shoe) alliance. I don't know that Dinky Soliman would mind, have been unduly taxed, enough to need a counselor. Or Jaworski, for reasoning this country from the law of Hostens and Gomorrah to one big swamp. The last time Erap declared to bring God into the fray, which was by way of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE A 11)

as I myself have no doubt the same has swum GMA, it will happen sooner or later, though one can only wish for the sake of the children who need to inherit a restored land/country of not bad struggling, corrupt Filipinos.

Defensor says the deposed Velarde proposal for peace-sharing is that GMA will rest her term next year. I don't know how many people he got to convince with that apparent piece of good sense. I've always assigned GMA no Master in Business Administration. Velarde would have to be out of his mind not to know that GMA will not rest again in whatever capacity after his second term expires. Velarde refused, demanding to know why he should accede to the demands of "a glutton's sin," Aquino and company walked out and, before long, the scenarios laid siege to Mendiola Bridge.

It wasn't GMA Marcos didn't want to do. It was that he found the consequences of being caught being GMA doesn't thus it at all. In fact, she doesn't feel—or no longer does—the consequences of being caught cheating. Which seems the chilling thought of what else she will not hear least see. Her attitude has become: So I lied, so I cheated, what do you want to do about it? What can you do about it?

GMA will step down next year? Only Velarde will think so say "Tank Yan."

* * *

Erratum: Someone brought it on my screw. One of the last lines in Boss Jacqui's letter read: "We must be comrades blinded by Tory, Union, Unaided." A horrible mistake. Boss's original read, "Indeed," which I overlooked. My most apologies to Boss Jacqui. Boss's original read, "Indeed," which I overlooked. My most apologies to Boss Jacqui. Boss's original read, "Indeed," which I overlooked. My most apologies to Boss Jacqui. Boss's original read, "Indeed," which I overlooked. My most apologies to Boss Jacqui. Boss's original read, "Indeed," which I overlooked. My most apologies to Boss Jacqui. Boss's original read, "Indeed," which I overlooked. My most apologies to everyone.

Too late the hero

SOUNDING BOARD

By Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

I HAVE not been so tired but of the heritage on Independence Day, but thanks to someone he with highlights. One such highlight is the debate among members of the pro-impeachment group on whom to sign up in support of impeachment. There in the up-front group have already signed and they are making news of the magic 76 thereby. Others, I understand, plan to sign on this hand only during the roll-call vote to plenary.

I tend to agree with those who say that, if the number 76 is not reached before the plenary vote, there is no will from heaven. The history of past impeachments shows that there is a back maneuver is coming to the plenary session when the vote has been lost in the Committee. Absences then abound. Therefore, whatever noble reason the second group might have, their vote should be treated no better than the vote of the first group.

Another option I got is that there is a chance for my column has fifteen consolidated when I said when I appeared in session series during the hearing of the Davide impeachment. At that time, I said, and the Court agreed, that an impeachment complaint is deemed filed only when the complaint has been filed and transmitted to the Committee on Justice and that, therefore, another complaint later that would violate the one-year ban.

Indeed, that is what I said. But let us look at the context of that statement. There was a first complaint. This first complaint was held to be sufficient in form on July 13, 2005, but it was discussed for insufficiency of substance on Oct. 22, 2003, or one day after the first had been declared insufficient of substance. In other words, the first "proceeding" was already well on the way when the second complaint came. Clearly, therefore, the second complaint could not be said to initiate the second impeachment proceeding. Once again I was badly off-base on my interpretation.

I guess that the phrase "bill of particulars" is not really a legal or valid or substantive concept. A respondent in a civil or administrative case asks for a "bill of particulars" to specify in order to be able to prepare a proper response to a complaint. A defendant in a criminal case, of course, need not ask for a bill of particulars because the charge sheet will be dismissed on the ground of defective information. An impeachment case, however, cannot easily be categorized as civil, criminal, or administrative. It is *sui generis*. But what is to prevent people involved in an impeachment defense from asking for a bill of particulars? "Bill of particulars" is "communication when they mean" is incorrect—thesis, synthesis, chapter and verse, and other synonyms which can be found in Roget's Thesaurus. But then, as I said, that is precisely what the defendants of the Presidency dread. It is not the phrase "bill of particulars" that I am objecting to but the complaint's content.

Again, I must say that that is not at all requiring. Impeachment is a political process. For that reason the responsibility for it has not been given to the courts but to the people's representatives in political body. A political body can be narrowly partisan. This fact explains 98 percent of what has been happening in the Committee hearings.

Abangan's motion on impeachment process is political and has not been seen as such. It is the president's pursuit of partisanship that is intolerable. The essence of the president's prosecution task is to convince the object of his or her courting that what he or she wants is what they too should choose for their own sake. Rational reasoning is not enough when the chosen one is not sure. I am, therefore, not surprised that the opposition is waging a political battle.

The purpose of an impeachment process is one and in the American Constitution is symbolically represented in the style of Chief Justice presidents of most institutions that this interrupted impeachment of Richard Nixon was a thinking moment in the nation's history. In the final analysis, the process that forced Nixon to resign from the presidency was a bi-partisan effort. Until Nixon was finally convicted, he had the support of the American senate, just as he was given before conviction that is not our context.

Unfortunately impeachment is a symbol of the rules of the game and we always manage to reflect what is symbolized. What is going on here in the impeachment process definitely is not.

PS. Is the separate declaration of a Member before a plan to prevent the collection of more signatures for Member interest?

Are they serious?

MPs in opposition congressmen really serious in their moves to exhale the amended complaint as part of an impeachment trial against the President? Only if they think the latter will be willing to be held down in a year—even prior—of impeachment trial.

The amended complaint constitutes some different charges against the President. Of course, Marino Javier Glenn Lorenzo '12 charges will have to be included as well.

What will happen at the trial?

For starters, take one of the amended complaint's charges, alleged "human rights violations," obviously a complaint designed to get the Left on board the impeachment. Bribery out of the 47 impeachment majority in no party-line representatives. 118 from the left. The complaint is charging that the President "supported in and presided impunity to the killing of political dissenters or infringed their freedom of expression and assembly."

The complaints' specifics? Totally based on a report of Karapatan, an NGO "411 assassinations, summary executions and [cases of] enforced disappearing. 249 victims of political violence." Of those, 38 were journalists, and 11,587 displaced" onward. "There's a total of 2,340 people, all of them alleged victims of human rights violations.

This account from it does only President Macapagal-Arroyo, but the Armed Forces of the Philippines which, the complaint alleges, are "responsible for the majority of these crimes."

How will the human-deficient mechanics' hexagram, of course, sway single one of these incidents. Can you imagine the number of witnesses and documents necessary to prove each and every one of these 2,340 violations of human rights incidents? Or even a PBP report on the Bantoc incident in addition. It contains the affidavits of 22 policemen and detectives.

Assume that we would take the Senate one day to even see such cases. This would take them 2,749 days, or six years. OK, they would be compared to take just a couple of, say, 100 cases. But then, what if the Senate decides that it is not necessary to examine as to which cases to include in the sample? Would the Left give up should all of the 1,800th case, no human rights violation be established?

Another charge in the amended complaint: The President approved the "Arroyo Bay" papers, even though it was unsigned and the interest rate on the Chinese loan for the project was high. This would require going through a procedure similar to the one used in connection with the Flores execution—and does would include studying or reviewing the recommendations of subordinates in the case.

Who would be the witnesses here? Home Speaker Jose de Venecia, who convinced the Chinese government to finance it? The governor of the Export-Import Bank of China, who signed the loan agreement? Chinese President Hu Jintao, if he is still there? Nothing to prove that? Just the Chinese ambassador to Manila, who has publicly stated that the contract is "above board, we have nothing to hide"?

Another charge which could have an interesting twist: The President sold the Naval Base? Yet, proving it is correct here would be difficult. Of course, the opposition—including those in the opposition—who were partners in road improvement projects he called to the witness stand? How about the lawyers who were employed in these projects?

We'll be arriving, of course, at a point of the hearings on the meeting and voting on whether to forward the case to the senate. Some months for Sen. Manuel Villar's consumer and two months for the congressional consumers. Its not just a replay but many many more episodes.

Contrary the dissipate, sanity approach of the impeachment senate to the trusted, more stable that gets to either impeachment or not. Remember the Clinton case? Remember Nixon just treats in, but only the specific instances when the US president asked others to cover up its links with the Watergate. The case against Clinton involved not his alleged extramarital but with him of a calendar but perjury in Aug. 17, 1998 before a federal grand jury? Isn't the impeachment of senator Erap against the specific instances. The case against Estrada involved the charges of pocking jueteng money and part of the bribery money the president caught Chavit Singson.

Read the charges in the amended complaint and visualize how they will be addressed by the Senate—then, Fr. Joaquin Bernas' theory that there is only one impeachment proceeding can be an extended bill of particulars is not convincing. There will be not two proceedings—entirely different sets of documents, entirely different groups of witnesses—but only one. Imagine, the Senate trust, the human rights violations charges, etc.

The Senate last exactly just a debating club. To operate, the chamber now requires about P1.3 billion a year, or P1 million each session day. With the plethora of different charges in the opposition's complaint, the senate would probably need a session every day for the next two years to finish the trial—but not counting re-election or even recess.

The complaint many more members of an impeachment trial, but television and radio will day after day be broadcasting—and newspapers will be publishing—the dialogue between the Senate President and the Chief Justice. Who will be the Glenn Beagle of court room art of the impeachment days. With this duel—even hour by hour hot-tape coverage of cable TV, the nine SMS forces hopeful see the President hustle under pressure, and resign.

That kind of harassment against the President is exactly what the anti-impeachment congressmen had sought to prevent with the constitutional provision mandating that only impeachment complaint—with subsequent—may be attended to within a year.

If so the President has day in court, the opposition and KGB-type dirty tricks exposing. Elliot they really want is to see her down in one's for ever.

Well, yes, the opposition is serious in having the amended complaint in the impeachment mill—but for a rather different reason.

Secretary Ephriem B. Tipon is the head of the Presidential Management Staff.

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Laureates

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

I WAS in the Commission of Palawan was a principle wanting causes of equality and equal protection before the law. Has changes in the political landscape? Unfortunately, this principle has not yet been realized. Violence against women, like the recent rape and murder of Palawan women's rights, must stop. Laws on effective measures to protect women must be enforced. Palawan women, lawyer Soma Salonga changed all that. Salonga was the first woman to be elected senator in the history of Palawan's storied bar examinees. Upon this distinguished achievement at the age of 26, she expected a law firm that assured equity to women. Once a week she would be in the bar, together the most young circumstances. As her clientele grew, Salonga broadened her role in representing her country's history, but her tireless passion never gave in. In 1994, the military dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos was overthrown and Salonga, while, her law firm continued its defense of women by pleading forcefully against true that discriminated against women. But legal and executive battles under Marcos paved the way for the next generation of women lawyers. Salonga's team of paralegal assistants that educated women on their legal rights. Any unique efforts paid off with unparalleled success in the Palawan Supreme Court. Today, the struggles for the rights of women have been won. Salonga's daughter and law-successor—continues. In electing Anna Dominique to serve the 2001 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service, the foundation recognized her struggle for religious tolerance in her country and work in her fight for equal treatment and protection of Palawan women before the law.

"It's not in the natural nature of what is natural and made," Robert Frost, the Ramon Magsaysay Awards. This Wednesday, Aug. 31—following tradition—the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) will honor six outstanding Asians from India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Laos, Korea and Thailand, one of them woman, with the 2005 Ramon Magsaysay award for their accomplishments in the fields of emergent leadership, community leadership, public service, government service, journalism, literature and the creative communication arts.

Last week, the RMAF conducted its announcements many winning courses for high school and college students. In the form of subject for this centered "Courageous Leadership." The students' winning entries and gave laureates. Christine Godinez Ortega and Andreas Tan. I had the privilege to be in their company for this occasion.

Reading through the entries of the winners only reinforced my belief that the key to what we have is a crisis of leaders. The RMAF deserves credit for nurturing this contest, which puts citizens in the values of heroism, selflessness, social compassion and "courageous leadership" in the most impressionable young minds in high school and college to imbibe. I see this as the perfect counterbalance to the lack of nation-building.

But we are not only in a crisis of heroes today. We also are in a crisis of saints. I wish we have another saint, in fact, of the self-proclaimed variety through of all the finger-pointing. Obviously in our hierarchy of values, truth claims the least respect. Our leaders have forgotten that the basic point of leaders is to lead by example that the basic point of leaders is to lead by example. Others other leaders are pushed right in us. Self-righteousness has become a social virtue, and it is dangerous pseudo.

Five people deserve to and will even deserve to be in the center of the Magsaysay Award laureates. I think of the day when we no longer need the Ramon Magsaysay laurels, when selflessness and charity reign supreme in the hearts of men and women.

Comments to montalvan.ajc.edu.ph

The Speaker's position

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

ON AUGUST 10, 2005, Speaker Jose de Venecia rose and delivered a remarkable speech. His appearance in extemporaneous remarks were made in response to a parliamentary inquiry made by one of his members in the plenary. The parliamentary was connected to the thesis of the House minority to impeach the Chief Justice. Those against the impeachment argued that the constitutional ban on impeachment proceedings against an official who had been cleared by the House within one year had been violated. The challenge was elevated to the Supreme Court, which upheld the position of the objectors. The House majority insisted that the impeachment process was valid. The political crisis was caused by the desire

Textbooks of mass idiotization now, textbooks of mass malnutrition next

LETTERS

THE editor in the report that the Department of Education has inked a partnership with a certain soft drink company in the delivery of textbooks throughout the country. For the past two years, the private sector was tapped by the DepEd to provide the "ghost deliveries" of books as a part of an ongoing effort to reform the inefficient and corrupt practices in the department.

But why a soft drink company?

Just two months ago, the DepEd instructed its school heads-level program on marketing the Universal Medical and Dental Check up to public schools. Pres. dente Mariapagal-Arroyo herself endorsed the scheme of PhilHealth for the school-feeding program.

How could the DepEd not see the irony of inviting an junk children's teeth and at the same time trying to deal with a company are known for making healthy drinks?

Imagine the Long Lines of the Philippines signing a signature manufacturers to deliver school chairs for its patrons. Or the Philippine Rural Coca cola allowing a tobacco company to open a caravan to its building. That is how I appreciate the application of a soft drink maker delivering textbooks for our children.

The DepEd has always resisted globalization to justify changes in the school curriculum. It should also recognize the global trend of existing in levels of unhealthy food problems. In the US states of Arizona, Arizona and Connecticut, junk foods are banned in schools. California governor and former bodybuilder Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger wants school vending machines to sell only juice and cereals.

How can schools effectively teach our kids in environments filled with no-nutrition sugar systems at its particular feeding station drinks where the big marks of a soft drink company are happily endorsed in school premises for distributing textbooks?

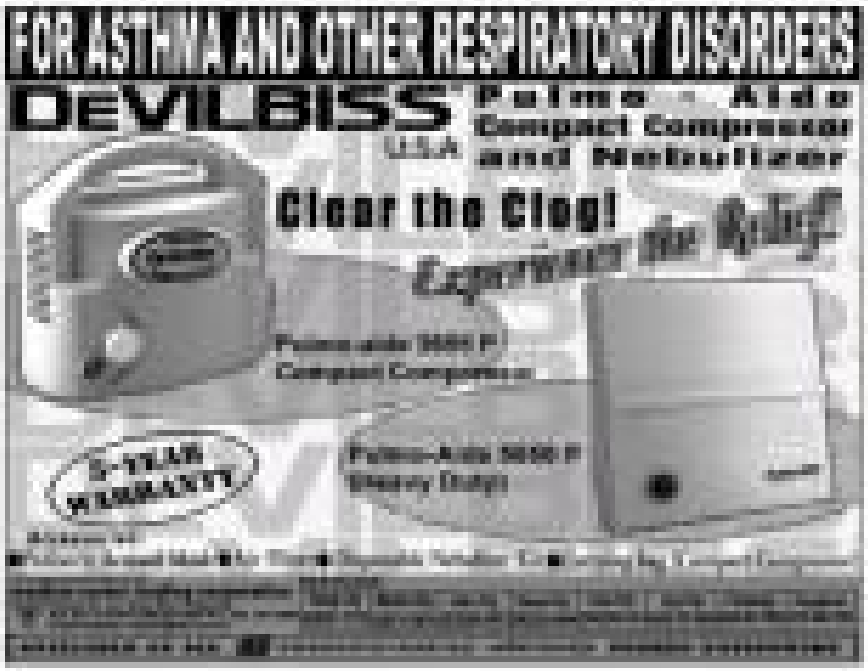
Educators have pointed out that students learn more from messages that are conveyed through actions and experiences experienced by school personalities. If we have a soft drink maker doing a good deed recognized by the school, students may not question the contradictions of its products. Students will only remember the company as a lifetime champion of education, and not a profit-motivated company responsible for making the drink which causes make children more healthy and intelligent.

Public school need money. But we must choose the source of the investments to spend for improving the quality of education. Can't the DepEd be more discerning in choosing its donors?

If a soft drink company is upset because it has a commercials of politicians that can crack one of the great texts, then why not ask the Church instead? Or the banana and fish sector?

We are a country with a per-capita for textbook scandals. Before, we had the textbooks of mass idiotization. With a soft drink company delivering books, we are on our way to having textbooks of mass malnutrition.

—ALFREDO PALUSO
Vice president, Ateneo de Davao
mmpaluso@yahoo.com



A republic in all fronts

THIS is a follow-up to the issue of the Champion of Iloilo City [PDI, A-11 (8)].

A responsible LGU-elected official never rushed out for camp-rather than division. "But a house divided against itself cannot stand." Christ admonished.

The organized terrorist groups in our country are all happy for the endorsements of some provincial leaders of their intention to create a new Moro Republic, Bangsa Republic, Moro Republic, etc.

Reading from history, previous have endorsed even during the time of President Quezon. He who was abducted and killed by a terrorist group that wanted to create another republic. We remember because a homicidal event only after the 9/11 incident.

We, Filipinos, are actually killing our country in an attempt to create a new republic. We have a Democratic form, liberation form, and now some politicians want an Moro form. Damn it one, Pastor form, etc. It is time to indeed save our country or it down we already!

—MATT BUNCAL
Cebu Archbishop City

Admirable young lawmakers

ALLOW me to express my sincere appreciation of the young members of the opposition in the House of Representatives, who have courageously stood their ground in the fight and continue to fight with and passion, in the face of brute intimidation and offers of gold, they have proven they still have principles are not for sale. The battle is tough, but they are going to prevail.

The use of legal subterfuges by the defenders of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to oppose the abrupt termination of the impeachment proceedings against her is a sign of desperation.

To Representatives Francis Escudero, Juan Perfecto Caperucos, Teodoro Locsin Jr., Gerardo Antonio Espinosa III, Gerardo Antonio Carmelo Espino, and others, keep up the good work. Millions of good countrymen salute you and are behind you to support. As the biblical saying goes "Just do your best and God will take care of the rest."

—JOSE GALANG
#3, 12 Hollywood Hotel,
Barangay 74, Tacloban City

'Act of judicial statesmanship'

I JUST commented the highly publicized phrase in an opinion of former Senate President Jovito Salonga on the Supreme Court decision that declared President Joseph Estrada as constructively resigned. "His decision was met with vigorous opposition from some of the constitutional legal minds, for being unconstitutional, it became the subject of the criticism of leading opinion writers, who rank their respective editor—for or against. Salonga never was wide as opinion, saying that what the Supreme Court did was an exercise of judicial statesmanship. He called the Davide Court as activist court.

I severely recommend the phrase again in an keynote address of Fr. Joaquin Bernas. He urged the Supreme Court not to reject the petition filed by disbarred presidential candidate Romulo Neri Jr.—as an act of judicial statesmanship. The case was pursued by Neri will, based decision, after his death. But Bernas' petition to substitute the late Executive was struck down by the high court on a technical ground. Instead Bernas urged that with the convening of 2007 power case, the intention of the latter would be framed on the Presidential Electoral Tribunal—which would pursue the case vigorously, and could come due is would be able to determine who really won in the May 2004 presidential elections.

The issues will be President Macapagal-Arroyo's impeachment and the mandating power which demanding her resignation would have become unnecessary. But this could only be realized if the Supreme Court overruled, once again, this act of judicial statesmanship. If the honorable justices did it in January 2001 to save the nation from chaos and bloodshed, why couldn't they do it now for the same reason? And it would undoubtedly be a defining moment for Hilario Davide Jr., who is running as vice president this December.

—OSCAR P. PUTTINGCOL
Cardinal Gaisano School,
University of the Visayas,
Cebu City

Pleasant reading on animal lovin'

IT was a pleasure to read the article by "Even Animal Lover" in the Lifestyle [PDI] section of the Inquirer last July 27. I hope that pro-animal literature would be a regular part of the newspaper.

—JOSE BAUTISTA
Philippine Animal Welfare Association, PO Box 868
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

Across the NATION

Bishop urges prayers to stop dengue

By Norma Nagalayan
INQ7.net Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Parishes in Cebu will storm the heaven with prayers to ask for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to hold off dengue fever, which has claimed the lives of 43 people in the city and province from January to August.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal has ordered the parish priests in Cebu to pray a novena to the Virgin of Guadalupe, Cebu's patron saint, "specifically for the intention of warding off the evil of dengue, as all of our parish churches."

He asked the priests to begin the novena as soon as possible and that a small procession with the image of the Blessed Virgin be held within the church compound after every novena.

"As we face the danger of this dreaded mosquito-borne disease, my thoughts go back to that salutic event in 1902 when the cholera epidemic that ravaged Cebu was halted through the powerful intercession of Mary, the Lady of Guadalupe," said Vidal in his circular dated Aug. 20 that appeared in yesterday's issue of Ang Lampusnganan, the official newsletter of the Cebu Archdiocese.

"Today we need to turn to her motherly care and protection that we may be spared from the specter of a dengue epidemic," he added.

Msgr. Bastian Bingbing, rector of Minagbalo town, said he and most of the other parish priests decided to start the nine-day novena on Wednesday as it coincided with Sept. 8, the feast of the Blessed Virgin.

For his part, he said the novena would not just be held in the main church of Minagbalo but also in the different chapels in the barangays.

Bingbing said the novena would be held after the dawn mass and before the start of the 6 a.m. Mass.

"Preferably the novena will be held at dawn because there is more sense of sacrifice than holding it in the afternoon," he added.

In his circular, Vidal also asked the different religious organizations to help the clean-up drive to remove the possible breeding places of Aedes aegypti, the day-light biting dengue-causing mosquitoes.

"I also enjoin all Marian organizations in the parish to join hands in campaigning for environmental sanitation, starting in their own church compound," he said.

"By doing so, our prayer to ward off dengue is coupled by our readiness to work for it," he added.

Vidal quoted in his circular the reported number of dengue cases in the country, especially in Central Visayas, which was increasing at an alarming pace.

Pagadian imposes ban on wearing headgear for motorbikers

PAGADIAN CITY—The increasing number of killings and robbery incidents perpetrated by motorcycle-riding men have been prompted Mayor Samuel Co to impose rules on the wearing of crash helmets, bonnets and other headgear that may conceal identities.

In an order issued on Tuesday, Co also imposed a slow speed limit for all motorcycles entering the city proper. The new speed limit for motorcycles is 20 kilometers per hour.

Co said the new regulations on the wearing of helmets would help authorities identify suspects of crimes through surveillance cameras that were installed recently around the city.

"Any motorist who exceeds the speed limit will be flagged down by traffic law enforcers and will be asked to present proper identification, including vehicle registration and license," he said.

Police records show that "most criminals use motorcycles in getaway vehicle after committing the crime," Co said.

Many killings in the city including the Feb. 2 murder of resident Edgar Amores, a prime witness to the murders of journalist Edgar Damalerio, have been committed by motorcycle-riding men.

Co said the police also noticed that most robberies were perpetrated by men, usually riding in tandem, on motorcycles.

Chief Insp. Robert Rabano, city police chief, said the new anti-crime measure mandated by the police not only in their drive against criminality but also as regular corrective law.

"The police can easily identify the suspects through surveillance cameras installed in the highways and streets of the city," he said.

At least 10 cameras have been installed in and around the city since July. Michael P. Dar reports, PDI Mindanao Bureau

US firm protests ₱250-M tax payment to LGUs

BATOBATO, Nueva Vizcaya—After paying ₱250.7 million to the provincial government last month, an American firm has filed a protest over the real property taxes levied against its power-generation facility in Alfonso Castañeda town.

Pedrito Martinez Jr., provincial treasurer, on Friday said his office received the protest of Cagayan Valley Energy Coercion Water and Energy Co. (CE Casecnan) which questioned the local tax imposition against the Casecnan Multi-Purpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP).

The project, which was filed by lawyers from the Sycip Salazar and Hernandez law firm, said it was the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), not CE Casecnan, which was liable to pay real property taxes.

The firm cited its 25-year build-operate-transfer agreement with the government that designated NIA as CMIPP's "beneficial owner."

In a supplemental agreement executed last year, NIA claimed absolute responsibility for all tax assessments against the project.

Citing BOI-approved spending before the Central Board of Assessment Appeals, CE Casecnan said the issue of whether taxes were due on the CMIPP property should first be resolved before the local government could continue collecting real property taxes.

It also said machinery and equipment used in the CMIPP were exempt from taxation because these were "actually, directly and exclusively used by the BIA."

"In addition, any property not exempt is subject to a 1.5 percent assessment level," the CE Casecnan petition said.

Martinez said his office has 60 days to resolve the CE Casecnan protest based on the province's tax ordinance.

Last month, CE Casecnan stopped the auction of CMIPP assets by lawyers headed Gov. Luisa Cuneta as a check worth ₱250.7 million as payment for the unremitted tax obligations since the CMIPP started operations in December 2001.

But the firm said it paid the amount "under protest." The amount covered ₱146.2 million to unpaid real property taxes, ₱93.6 million in penalties and ₱4.9 million in "administrative cost" for 1% percent of property assessed to be worth ₱1.1 billion.

The CMIPP property that were declared delinquent by the provincial treasurer's office include two diversion tunnels, a part of its 64 tunnels and a number of buildings and machines in Barangays Maasap and Abaan in Alfonso Castañeda town, some 150 km from here.

In a letter to provincial officials, Linda Castillo, CE Casecnan vice president and general counsel, said the company was "left with no option other than to pay the real property taxes."

This after the firm's lawyers failed to obtain from the regional trial court and the Court of Appeals a temporary restraining order on CMIPP's sale on July 25. Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Lucena anticrime drive intensified

LUCENA CITY—The local government has intensified its campaign against criminality following three successive at least robbery incidents.

Last week, a local construction magnate was robbed by motorcycle-riding men. Two days later, a manager of a local fast food center was also robbed.

The victim, who had just made bank withdrawals, lost a total of more than P1 million.

On Monday, robbers struck again, this time on the way of a rice trader, shooting and killing the driver. A police report said the two passengers were divested of P1,000,000.

Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. said the city government would purchase 10 motorcycles, several firearms rifles and communications equipment to beef up police capability in stopping criminality.

He warned that he would not hesitate to seek the transfer of any policemen found to be inefficient.

Talaga urged all banks here to strictly implement the ban on the use of mobile phones inside their premises.

"Criminals are still phone to coordinate their movements," he said.

Local banks prominently display notices prohibiting the use of cell phones inside the premises, but the warnings are often ignored.

Talaga appealed to local businessmen to coordinate with the police if they invested to withdraw huge sums of money from the bank.

"My policemen will provide them security if the business they own or of the bank up to their final destination," he said.

City police chief Supt. Cornado Cuya said his men were closely working on leads provided by informants in solving the robberies.

Police have also put up checkpoints in strategic areas inside and outside the city proper.

Quezon police chief Senior Supt. Victorio A. Isorena Jr. has assigned more policemen to augment the local police force.

Mauricio Osorio, president of the Lucena Builders Association, said in a local TV program that the rash of robberies victimizing bank clients had affected most banks.

The banks have been kept by recipients from clients that they deliver their withdrawals to them, he said.

The bank official urged clients to learn to avoid themselves of other bank services, like checking accounts.

Sacked

In Tagaytay City, Chief Supt. Jeffrey Fortaleza, Cagayan Valley police director, sacked Chief Insp. Dominador Dolalas, Bagayo police chief, and the town's 20 policemen and ordered them to report to the regional police office.

Fortaleza said the relief was due to the 15 unsolved murder cases in the town recorded since 2004. Most of the cases were election-related, he said.

Chief Insp. Ramon Mangmang replaced Ursalino as Bagayo's police chief. The new police force assigned in the town came from the provincial police office and nearby towns of Bagayo.

"I challenge the new police force to adhere to the rule of law. We need to improve services here at all times," he said.

Fortaleza said the reshuffle published a wave among the political clans of the Bolinaodos, Alfaros, Tenoriyos and Molinas in the town, prompted him to overhaul the police force amid reports that some policemen here have identified with rival political groups.

The relieved policemen will undergo a 30-day retraining and remain before they are given new assignments, he said.

The latest killing in the town involved ambushed former Vice Mayor Lorenzo Alfaro Sr., report said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ENERGY SAVERS
These clay stoves from Cagayan Valley are popular in the hinterland town of Dupaia in Mt. Province, where firewood is more abundant than liquefied petroleum gas and kerosene. Each stove sells for P180 and consumers say they last longer than LPG burners.

ROUNDUP

Informants rewarded

LAMBUNAO, Iloilo—Four antigovernment informants received a total of P1.4 million from the military on Friday for helping authorities capture a local top Abu Sayyaf bandit, Southern Command deputy chief Brig. Gen. Francisco Ligualon and investigators officer Col. Nathaniel Villaguiran, distributed the reward money to the informants, who were white chefs and college basketball cops and other faces were covered with handkerchiefs. One of the recipients got P1 million while the three others got P100,000 each. *Jude Abude, PDI Western Visayas Bureau*

60 militiamen activated

SUMIC CITY—The military boosted its presence in the hinterlands of Misamis Occidental by activating over 60 militiamen. Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza said during his visit here on Wednesday that the paramilitary force would complement the enforcement units in the province. Six months ago, the provincial peace and order council sought the activation of more militiamen to combat illegal logging activities. Mainstay: Most of the illegal loggers are armed and have threatened to harm environment officials. *Ryan Rosario, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Palm oil demand up

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Agriculture has included palm oil in the list of potentially commodities in the country because of growing demand. The country's demand for palm oil has been growing by 2.1 thousand per year, which has pushed the shortfall to about 40,000 metric tons. Palm oil is cheaper than coconut oil and can be mixed several times. But DA said Lanzones like Philippines imported over 56,000 MT of palm oil valued at $40.12 million, five times higher than the volume imported in 2000, according to DA data. To meet the demand, the country needs to develop 12,000-15,000 hectares of palm oil plantations every year. *Jody Delos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Marines hunt dogs

TABAC, Leyte (8 Nov)—Marine soldiers have joined the hunt for stray dogs that have victimized 23 persons in Mayorga, Leyte last April, according to Mayor Ramon Dino. Gov. Imelda Dimaporo has ordered the municipal police and the Army of ambulance vaccines as the number of bite victims and about P1,000 per vial and millions of dog bites must receive several shots to avoid possible death. *Ryan Rosario, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Nat'l Dog Olympics

LEMERY, Batangas—A three-day National Dog Olympics, which organizers hope would thrust the city into the limelight, kicked off here on Friday to time for the celebration of the 7th Town Festival that also featured the city's 37th charter anniversary celebration. Organizers said the event was not the largest seasonal activity dogs or dog sports events from various parts of the country. The competition, the first to be held here, featured the "Mondio Ring," a higher dog sports discipline popularized in Europe, the United States and Japan. *Jayson Cano, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

New traffic scheme

CITY OF Cebu (8 Nov)—The Philippine Ports Authority on Aug. 12 started implementing a new traffic and safety scheme for passengers and vehicles at the city Port, using its baggage walk-through X-ray machines worth P5.4 million. Each 1 person passing by point with the handle from government agencies, one ticketing booths of roll-on roll-off and ferryboat vessels, and 20 vendors' booths, said Emmanuel Pena, port police division station commander. Calls 3 more as well said. *Rhaluna Villa, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ARMED! Santos (left) and RJ Pacada (right) of FEU gang up on UP's Ricky Santos to win the ball for the home team.

Tams secure Final 4 ticket, halt Maroons

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE FAR Eastern U Tamaraws found their outside touch just in time and turned back the pesky University of the Philippines Maroons, 71-63, yesterday to claim the first semifinal slot in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Blue Eagle Gym.

"All players good defense inside and we had a hard time," said coach Bert Flores. "But we adjusted in the second half. I told them to be ready to shoot outside."

And the FEU veterans certainly responded after the break with dreamed Santos and Jeff Chan leading the second from beyond the arc.

Santos shot 12 points and grabbed seven rebounds for the Tamaraws, who kept the win lead at 9-1. Chan chipped in 11 markers.

"There's been pressure now that we're in the Fi- and Four, but of course we're more inspiring the we've to beat advantage," added Flores.

Rodney the La Salle Archers continued to the National University Bulldogs, 70-54, for a fourth- lock in 4 record.

The defending champions never looked in danger of losing behind team captain Joseph Yeo and PJ Cruz, who combined for 26 points.

"We showed everybody that we can bounce back and that we never lose our composure," said coach Franz Pumaren after the Archers recovered from a heartbreaking 68-70 setback against the Tamaraws last Sunday.

The Maroons slipped to 3-6, while the Bulldogs (at 4-8) refused to lie down.

Francis Escoffery completed a three-point play and Santos, rookie Jonas Villanueva and Chan drilled in three straight triples for the Tamaraws, who surged ahead for good, 66-59, after the Maroons had threatened at 59-53.

An inside play the Bengals gained a tie for the lead with the Archers (eight at 9-3 after blasting the Bullpups, 83-69.

The Baby Tamaraves later forged a three-way tie at the top spot by topping the Junior Maroons, 89-86.

The scores

First game (boys)

LA SALLE 70— Yeo 14, Cruz 13, Andrei A. Tiong 7, Salado 6, Gerber 6, Manchester 6, Ilesia 4, Arabe 4, Cruz 3, Hilomen 2, Flores 2, Co 2, Mangahas 0.

NU 54— Jones 24, Salvador 7, Jr. Calimoso 6, Tolentino 4, Dikitanan 4, Sanchez 2, Jaime 2, C. Calimoso 2, Pio 2, Lingbaoan, Fernandez 0.

Quarters: 14-10, 40-32, 57-38, 70-54

Second game (boys)

FEU 71— Santos 12, Chan 11, Villanueva 9, Zaldua 8, Mercado 7, Bagtas 6, Fernandez 5, Bartolome 0, Mangahas 2, Nieto 2, Ramos, Cruz, Cruz

UP 63— Cruz II, Ilano 10, Gonzales 10, Ilustre 7, Suarez, Cruz 7, Torres 4, Ramos, Gonzalez, Pantoja 3, Ilustre 0

Quarters: 19-13, 35-32, 52-47, 71-63

Santo Tomas netters bag Adidas collegiate crown

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas upset top seed Polytechnic University of the Philippines, 2-1, over the weekend to bag the collegiate men's team championship of the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2005 at the UP-Diliman Tennis Club court in Quezon City.

Marleon Bartolome and Gerard Elbert Amarra, 3-4, to give the Tigers, the defending UAAP champions, the first point.

The unseeding Bautagulan then paired with Jordan Cruzabra to pull off a pulverizing 6-0, 6-0 win over Amarra and his Salvus for the Asian Tennis clinches to the tournament organized by CDM and supported by Mike, Globe Iconnet and Inkfest.

In high school boys' play, San Beda College edged Ateneo, 2-1, to clinch the crown.

College of St. Benilde and De La Salle-Zobel shared the limelight with UST and San Beda.

The Lady Blazers thrashed Santo Tomas, 2-0, for the collegiate women's championship, while SLIS downed Colegio San Agustin for the high school girls' diadem.

NCAA CAGING

Also-rans try to bow out in style

THE ALSO-RANS try to end their NCAA football seasons on a winning note today.

The University of Perpetual Help and the St. Benilde Blazers will dispute fifth place at 4 p.m., after the battle of unbeaten heroes on the Gus Ilustre Lions and Jose Rizal U Bombers at 1 p.m. today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"We want to finish the season on a high note," said Blazers coach Coley Cuevas.

The four defunct blogs completed the semifinal cast last Friday joining the league-leading Letran Knights, the defending champion Philippine Christian University Dolphins and Jose Rizal Heights in the Final Four.

Only the Knights, though, have secured the twice-to-beat advantage in the semifinal round.

After scoring back-to-back wins, the Altas and the Blazers head to choose to forge a playoff for the fourth spot, but the Stags crushed their hopes by stunning the Dolphins, 81-75, last Friday.

"We're out in control of things but we're still hoping for a win on Monday," said coach Bal Cantada, whose Altas failed to reach the Final Four after ring runner-up finish last season.

NRD, new coach Nes Bawal, the young Lions pulled off two straight shockers against the Dolphins and the Stags before collapsing in their season finale.

Meanwhile, the NCAA management committee will decide today on a recommendation by commissioner Ato Lipa to suspend PCU coach Jessel Bacalla for unsportsmanlike conduct during the Dolphins' 81-65 loss to the Stags.

Bacalla was caught on television flashing a dirty finger after Dolphin Carlos Cuello was dropped with an offensive foul late in the third quarter.

The Dolphins, who are vying to strengthen their hold of second spot and the twice-to-beat advantage, will battle the Cardinals on Wednesday and the Knights on Friday. Jasmine W. Payo

SEAG readiness up at Forum

THE PHILIPPINES rising ambitions for the country's hosting of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games will again be the focus of discussion in tomorrow's session of the Pilot Forum at the main function room of the Pantaleon Restaurant in Manila Hotel's Kingsley.

Invited as resource-based officer Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) vice president Mike Cuenco's attitude executive John Alcantara matter at the public sports program and lecture 12:30 p.m. over 4,000 Sports Radio and sponsored by Red Bull, Gatorade, Powerman, Propan and Manila Mariner's Inn Alcantara. Among blogging on specific sectors on sports-related issues by Mike Cuenco, and officials of the forthcoming 50th Youth Fest by Dr. Dave Tamayo, Philippine Tennis and Recreation Confederation

Small fishers help revive sea urchin industry

A GUIDE shows visitors of Sabang Cove in Sicogon Island, Carigara a sea urchin, referred to as "tapayan," in water at an open exhibition.

By Yolanda Sondo-Fuentes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BULUANG, Negros Occ.—When this writer was still in May several small fishermen decided to release their cultured sea urchins into a patch of sea grass in the Tañon Strait off this town.

They could have sold the sea urchins (*Tripneustes gratilla*) and used the money for their needs, or they could have consumed the roe themselves.

But they chose to release the sea urchins to restore inhabitants the marine environment and help other small fishermen earn a living. Sea urchins are eaten as delicacies in restaurants.

Jovanie Gabarra, chair of the Barangay Bulubuan Bay-utilization Association, said the fishermen had to release the cultured urchins because they would die in cages when freshwater intrude into the area during the rainy season.

Sea urchins, he said, could not survive in low-salinity water. "If we harvest the cultured urchins, there will be less seeds to lay eggs in the sea. It's really a sacrifice but it is worth it because the urchins would proliferate in the sea grass where water has high salinity," Gabarra said.

He told residents of Bulubuan would introduce oxygen in the marine-protected area to encourage the urchins to grow more and faster.

Coralline, secretary of the Bulubuan Mobile na Mangingisda sa Viterry, said the organization does not really earn much from the activity but that the culture of sea urchins helps other fishermen who make a living from gathering and selling them.

"Those in the wild are for them," Coralline said.

The urchin eggs then out of the cages into the wild to repopulate Bulubuan's waters, where urchins were once abundant.

Coralline said two members of the organization risks care of the cages but do not get paid for their efforts. The proceeds from the sale of sea urchins go to the maintenance of the Bon Bon barangay marine protected area in the village.

The rebuilding of the depleted marine area, an initiative of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI), which maintains a laboratory in the area.

The project started in 1994 A.D. the people of Bulubuan and the Bantigui-Bulubuan and the Bantigui-Bulubuan have formed the Bulubuan Bay-utilization Association (BBA), which undertakes rehabilitation of the area.

The provincial government of Negros Occidental and La Granja have taken over the project that is being implemented by the Bugis Langtoon Gulf, a non-government organization formed in the 1980s. Dr. Dagpin Kalibayan and the Bantigui-Bulubuan Association (BBA), which undertakes rehabilitation of the area.

Provincial Gov. Victor Agbayani said the project would help fishermen improve their livelihood in the Langtoon Gulf.

The gulf's resources, he said, had been depleted because of overfishing, illegal fishing and pollution.

Jose Duncan of the Bugis Langtoon Gulf said the restored sea urchin industry was still fragile and could collapse again if the fishermen did not cooperate with the conservation efforts pushed by various groups.

Duncan said the UPMSI gave the seed stocks to the fishermen for free. The initiative, he said, was worth P5,000 each stocks for distribution to fishermen.

The fishermen are asked to harvest the urchins only on the second week of October. By that time, the urchins would have spawned several times and millions of eggs would have been set in the sea, he said.

Sea urchin spawn during noon and full moon and with spawning period would mean millions of eggs from each urchin.

Many fishermen have benefited from the sea urchin rehabilitation project. Jovanie said, but like in the 1980s, when the industry was at its peak, fishermen gather even the young urchins.

Traders slam environmental tax plan in Palawan

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A proposed revenue code that will impose an environmental privilege fee on fish and other marine resources dropped out of Palawan for commercial and poor to stop opposed by businessmen here who claimed they were not invited to a public hearing on Aug. 25.

The businessmen who attended the hearing said "he invited himself" because he was not invited about it.

He said the proposed code would affect businesses and even consumers.

The Bantay-Isnod Alliance of Philippine Fishing Federations (APFF) and a representative for Jacinto Chat they were also not informed.

Marcial Mijares Jr., secretary general of the APFF, said they learned about the public hearing only from somebody else.

They presented a petition paper of the council's wrong and unwise committee opposing the proposed environmental protection fee.

Under the proposed revenue code, tax will be imposed on the following items per kilo on each shipment: Live fish (P20), dead fish (no P10), live squid and lobster (P5), dried fish (P1.50), dried lobster (P5), seaweeds and corals (P5), fresh squid, crab meat, shrimps, molluscs, shrimps and fresh fish (P2) directly shipped out from the fishing ground within the territorial jurisdiction of Bantay to commercial fishing vessels and other marine products (P1).

Mijares Jr. disagreed will be charged P5 for every thousand, and pearls and decorative shells, 1 percent of market value.

The APFF, to unite the organizations of municipal and commercial fishing organizations, has criticized the proposed ordinance as arbitrary and illegal.

The measure would affect the national food security, the APFF paper contended, pointing out that the organization was producing about 20 percent of the country's total fish requirement.

It added that the group's members employed more than 6,000 fish workers on board fishing vessels and more than 1,000 land-based laborers, mostly coming from Cavite, Mindoro, Cavite, Batangas and Puerto Princesa City.

The abuse, Mijares said, gave a big contribution to Palawan.

Films on Agno River, Mindoro mining cited in festival

TAPO-Documentary films that focused on the environment of indigenous peoples in the Cordillera in protecting their environment were top prizes in the Mowelan Documentary Film Festival in Mines Manila last week.

"Agno," directed by Erlyn Bach Alcantara, bagged the best documentary on rivers and lakes category while "Moving Mountains" by Reymer and Lee Rondez bagged the "Grand Gawilan" top prize in the competition.

The documentary titled "Walking of the Ladies" of the Centrum-cancer for Evangelization and Development Center (CEDC) of the Igorot-Ifugao Province of Cabagan, was proclaimed best film in the mining category.

Alcantara's "Agno" was about the fight of Benguet Bukids and Pangasinan residents who live along the Agno River against the construction of the San Roque Dam.

The film tackled the impact of large dam projects, such as San Roque, on small farming communities in Barangay Balogbog in Itogon, Benguet and in San Nicolas and San Manuel towns in Pangasinan.

"Moving Mountains" tackled the destructive effects of large-scale corporate mining on the environment, culture and the lives in the communities in the Cordillera.

It's Ella Gatchalian, originally in of the 29-minute Filmi documentary "Walking of Paradise" depicts the campaign of the people of Mindoro against the entry of the large-scale mining affect Mindoro Nickel Project of Crew Development Corp., a Canadian mining corporation, and the local Iloilo Agtabong Mintrop.

"It highlights the concerted efforts of the basic sectors, the civil society, including the Church and the local government units, in opposing the industry that threatens the rich biodiversity, the livelihood of the people, the ancestral domains of the Mangyan indigenous peoples and the fragile ecosystems of the island province of Mindoro," said Pablo Espiritu.

The festival was organized by Center for Environment Awareness and Education.

North Negros forest now protected area

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Officials of the new the North Negros Forest Reserve (NNFR), a wildlife sanctuary and the Ligtasan Watershed in Negros Occidental, have been honored with a proclamation declaring it a protected area.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed on Aug. 15, Proclamation No. 1064 that covers 9,000 hectares, the North Negros Natural Park, and Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO).

The NNFR is now a component of the Philippine National Protected Area System along with the Negros Forest Reserve and the Mt. Kanlaon National Park, both in Negros Occidental.

Alonzo said it was important that the NNFR be declared a protected area in order to undertake its ecological processes and the natural resources, including the genetic diversity, ensure sustainable use of resources and promote its natural conditions to the greatest possible extent.

The NNFR covers 10,454.50 hectares, straddling the cities of Talisay and Silay and Victorias, Sagay and San Carlos, and the municipalities of Escalante, Manapla, Palaspas, Calatrava and Don Salvador Benedicto.

It is considered the largest watershed of Negros Occidental, and is said to exhibit vegetation where rare and endangered species of flora and fauna exist.

These include the Handall (Clavicrs and Salmon), Bleeding Heart Pigeon, Philippine Pitta's Hq and the Philippine Spotted Deer.

The NNFR is also home to some species of primates and animals not found elsewhere in the world. The Buffalo International has identified NNFR as an International Bird Area.

With the proclamation, the NNFR becomes the largest protected area in Western Visayas, and the second in the whole Visayan region.

Of the different forested areas in five provinces of Region 6 land, NNFR was also the largest remaining forest cover considered at 10,000 hectares, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

A report earlier said by Alonzo is the protected government, said there were many threats to the NNFR's ecology, like illegal logging and kaingin.

There include the large encroachments inside the reserve composed of 8,344 hectares that is within the 42 barangays that some pressure on the NNFR.

Unsustainable and destructive farming practices have endangered several fauna and flora and had caused the extinction of others, the report said.

Large kinds of forestland have been converted into agricultural use that adopt technology dependent on pesticide and chemicals, it said.

Baguio cyclists want lanes as energy-saving measure

BAGUIO CITY—For the sake of energy conservation and clean air, cyclists and motorcycle and scooter users in the city are asking local officials to build bike lanes and allow them to use motorcycle lanes.

The Power Scooter Group (PSG) is leading the move to appeal City Ordinance No. 6, which prohibits scooters, motorcycles and bicycles from plying the central business district.

"The ordinance was enacted in 1983 and concerns prevailing at that time no longer exist," said Ronald Chan, PSG president.

"Motorcycles produce less harmful pollutants than cars, vans, SUVs [sport utility vehicles] or buses. They also put less stress on road surfaces," Chan said.

Bicycles and motorcycles are cheaper and take only a fifth of the parking space occupied by a car, he said.

The PSG is having a fund-raising drive to help the council to give them a month-long trial period to allow motorcycles, scooters and bicycles to ply the city's main routes.

Insp. Antonel Bumanglil of the Baguio City police office, also letter to the city planning and development coordinator on July 22, said motorcycles should not be allowed in the central business district except on emergency cases.

Bumanglil said from May to June, seven accidents involving motorcycles were recorded in the downtown area.

Motorcycles were observed weaving in "front left to right, front one lane to another" and that was "not safe at all" in the motorists, he added.

He said parked motorcycles also obstruct vehicles' passage.

The PSG recommended the establishment of bike lanes for the motorcyclists and bikers so they could avoid accidents.

"The motorcycle riding of motorcycles does not pose any threats to other motorists and pedestrians. In fact, it is very advantageous as it helps speed up traffic flow," a PSG letter said.

Chan said motorcycles are more economical and environment-friendly than cars.

He said a motorcycle would use from 40 to 50 km per liter, which is two to four times farther than most cars could reach per liter of gasoline.

He said modern motorcycles do not emit much smoke unlike their counterparts in 1983, the time when the ordinance was enacted.

Mores importantly, the PSG said banning them to city roads is a violation of Republic Act 4136 or the Land Transportation and Traffic Code.

"To continued enforcement deprives motorcyclists of their right to freely use the roads in violation of the provisions of special laws, particularly RA 4136," Chan said. Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

No classes today, no work in gov't offices

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People-- buried by Filipinos Governor Amanado Tinsingco yesterday and there would be no meeting at the Philippine Dealing System—the local foreign exchange electronic trading system—but all banks would be open for business.

The Philippine Clearing House Corp. will be open to accept checks from banks for settlement on Tuesday, Tetangco said.

Primitivo Cruz, president of the Philippine Stock Exchange, also told reporters that there would be no trading on the bourse on Monday but the PSE officers will be open for business.

The Department of Education yesterday announced that public schools in the Metropolitan and Regional Offices would have no classes after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita to draft an order declaring Aug. 30, Monday, a public holiday.

The President gave the order two days after Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye declared that Monday would be a regular working day because National Heroes Day was nominally observed on the last Sunday of August every year under the law.

Changes

When the President declared on Saturday that Aug. 29 would be a public holiday, "the changes in the cut-line announcement that Monday will be a regular working holiday because Heroes Day is the last Sunday of August under the law, Presidencia now a school holiday," said Deputy Executive Secretary Ramon Bacani.

For the third straight day yesterday, Malacañang flip-flopped on the schedule of its declaration of a special nonworking holiday today.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita issued Proclamation Order No. 904, declaring Aug. 30 "a special (nonworking) day in the public sector and in all schools (public and private) at all levels."

The Bureau of Customs is the only public service group required to open for work today, according to the order.

It was only the second holiday declaration announcement of National Heroes Day, which was celebrated yesterday.

Apology

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye apologized for "yet another face-to-face error" on Saturday. Bunye announced that Aug. 29 was a public holiday and that there would be no work or classes in both the public and private sectors.

On Friday, he said that Aug. 29 was not a holiday because he noted that traditionally, National Heroes Day was celebrated on a Sunday and, thus, the next day was not a holiday.

Yesterday Bunye clarified that the private sector was excluded from today's holiday after he consulted Ermita, especially those in the manufacturing sector, requested it.

"My understanding is that private manufacturing companies, especially with tight deadlines to comply, requested not to be included (in the special nonworking holiday)," he said in a text message.

He said it was not the first time that Malacañang came out with a proclamation order declaring the celebration of holidays that excluded the private sector.

Business request

Jobs created over 8,000 daily. Power and many private companies requested many months back, but to meet their deadlines. "That is why [the order] only covered government offices," he said.

The press secretary gave assurances that Malacañang would ensure that it would notify the public early about its non-holiday pronouncements.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said the latest Palace clarification was a concession to the business sector.

Sto. Tomas conceded that private firms as much as possible wanted to know in advance the days to be declared holidays. Otherwise, she said, it would not only translate to lost productivity schedules but a doubling of their operation costs as well.

A spokesperson of the National Economic and Development Authority and the agency would hold its press conference as scheduled at 10 a.m. today to announce the official economic growth data for the second quarter. A Reuters poll of 18 economists gave a median forecast of 4.8% percent for GDP growth in the year through the second quarter, down from the government's estimate of 4.7%. 1 percent in the period.

Reports by Alexis Papa, Christine Avendaño and Reuters

People power illiberal strain of RP democracy

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liberalism," in particular the rule of law and due process, strict protection of fundamental political, human and property rights, and the legal separation of Church and State.

"Democracy, in turn, means such civilian government, universal suffrage, and the election of public officials, especially the executive and the legislature," says Quimpo.

It argues that former elections in early since 1986 that "put the Philippines on the path to illiberal democracy." But liberalism "has considerably collapsed at a pace equal to democracy beyond the basic levels of safe elections."

Ignored by elites

Although the 1987 Constitution respects a host of rights and freedoms, the essay points out, "in practice they are often violated or ignored by the state, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and many sectors. It often plays other sources of "illiberal democracy" among them, political religion and people power, which "prevent a major deficiency."

While Catholic Church action "has promoted both democracy and liberalism in terms of election security," it is challenged by the Western ideal of the separation of Church and State, the essay argues.

"Moreover, the Church and other social forces have embraced people power as an ideologized symbol as perceived abuses of executive power," which the essay describes as "a dangerous premise that has become part of partisan rivalry," that is being played out in the current crisis epitomized by the call of another people power to bring pressure on Mr. Arroyo as resign in the wake of accusations that she had rigged the 2004 elections.

The paper argues that based on an analysis of the 2004 elections, "illiberal democracy in the Philippines rests on strong foundations."

On one hand, it argues, bad government, armed men, and the mainstreaming of military activism "have deepened the illiberal strains of the political culture since the centre of liberties."

On the other hand, it argues that the "evasion of democratic reformation by prominent institutions and public opinion, and new technologies and types of representation, have reinforced antidemocracy. But even on solid footing even though it now other appears on the brink of collapse."

Illiberal strain

The article devotes a section to the current state of people power as an illiberal strain of Philippine democracy. It defines people power as "a central revolt against existing bases of state" and has become "a major focal point for the development of contradictions of liberalism and democracy."

Since 1986, the paper points out, people power has joined political leaders, the 1986 Catholic Church and thousands of people together to demand a change of leadership. It claims that subsequent calls for the "victory of the populace will over shame of power, while critics argue that it replaces due process with mob rule and a 21st century version of monarchism."

People power is a legacy of the Marcos brand of "illiberal authority" in several ways, the paper says. "Just as partisan politics. The original anti-Marcos coalition led by Corazon Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Ramos and Gloria Cardinal Sin, has remained in all three people power movements. 1 and 2 removed Presidents Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, which EE against Arroyo failed."

The paper points out that from one point of view the three people power movements have been considered, "pitting black-shirted Marcos and Estrada against old political families represented by Aquino and Arroyo, military reformists led by Ramos, campaign-time professionals and students in Manila, and a Church fearful of a return to illiberal autocracy."

"This would make these movements extremely partisan, divisive in and identities. On the other hand, people power is not a liberal device, since its intentions, conduct, and result argue are not delineated in this context, it says."

Less spontaneous

Moreover, the paper points out that "each iteration of people power has become less spontaneous, idealistic and pure, and more calculated, cynical and corrupt."

"Even worse for proponents of liberal democracy the actualization of people power into partisan politics might breed a general refusal to accept the results of any election, no matter how legitimate, and turn civil disobedience into anarchy without proper leadership and solidarity."

The paper concludes that people power "is at once a denial of partisan rivalry, democratic idealism, and religious motivation that symbolizes the replacement of illiberal autocracy with illiberal democracy. In 2004, people power did not materialize because elites and residents of Manila decided it was not necessary."

Although since 1986, people power has become a legitimate antidote of perceived abuses of state power, the paper argues, "the push on democracy, but the methods are illiberal."

"If leaders have lost the right to govern, they should be removed through elections. "The paper argues. "If people power continues to become a partisan device rather than an extraordinary response to an unusual situation, it will become increasingly arbitrary."

Gordon: No politics in Subic shake-up

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sacrificed by the President to a bid to muster more allies to fend off the impeachment case against her. Many impeachment complaints accuse the President of vote-rigging and other illegal acts.

Gordon denied reports that Arroyo's appointment was a trade-off for his vote against the impeachment of Mr. Arroyo if the complaint gets transmitted from the Senate of Representatives to the Senate for trial.

"No one think I will vote against the impeachment case? Am I a robot who can't think for myself?" he said.

Unfair

Asked if he had dangled support for the President in the impeachment case as a condition for the appointment of his nominees to the SBMA, Gordon said that was "very, very unfair" to the President.

"I'm insulted," he said of the insinuations that Arroyo's nominations were tainted.

Gordon said that if he were pro-Mr. Arroyo, he would not have asked the President's son Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo to go on leave at the height of calls for the President to resign.

Mr. Arroyo has another "accommodation" to the impeachment case "not to any political interest groups," her political adviser said.

"She said so cyclical expansion, usual maneuvering in the governing bureaucracy are just given more political color and interesting when there are none," the President's political adviser Gabriel Claudio said in a text message.

Contrary to the reports, Gordon said he had neither resent- amended items for the entity's position yesterday which gave Gordon had pushed for Arroyo's appointment for his personal interest.

"I got the sacrosanct of the deadline."

The senator reiterated that it was Eddy Boyra, a former SBMA volunteer like Arroyo, whom he had recommended for the administrator's post, which Antonio left following his transfer to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Monetary Board.

Boyra was deputy administrator and chief of staff of Gordon when the latter served as SBMA chair from 1992 to 1998.

Gordon said he had recommended Arroyo, his finance manager at the SBMA, to the SBMA board of directors and got the position.

Gordon also defended Arroyo from insinuations that he clinched his appointment because he had the right connections in government. Arroyo is a first cousin (not brother-in-law as earlier reported) of staunch presidential ally Sarigaya del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay.

"That is very unfair to the guy. Arroyo is a very decent man. I practically raised that guy. When nobody was interested in Subic, young people with a good education like him took the risk by volunteering for Subic," he said, recalling the collective effort of volunteers to rebuild the base post in the aftermath of the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions and the departure of the American military in 1991.

"We got jobs, we got Subic going. What's wrong with that?"

Arroyo, who graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1993 with a degree in industrial engineering, served as Subic's finance director, and later attended the Wharton School in the United States. He also served as Gordon's undersecretary at the Department of Tourism.

Smuggling

Instead of airing criticisms, Senator Arroyo should look into the reports of smuggling in the free port, a former United States military base covering Zambales and Bataan, Gordon told the inquirer in a telephone interview.

"He always criticizes. He better look into what Homer [SBMA Chair Feliciano] Peruano did in Subic. Much of it was about smuggling," Gordon said.

Peruano, who was installed in July 1998 by then President Joseph Estrada after almost three months of a standoff with Gordon, said the senator was sidetracking the issue.

"Gordon just wants to corner the top posts there by pressuring the President, knowing how reform-like she is now," Peruano told the Inquirer.

Peruano said it was during Gordon's term as SBMA chair that the auction of used vehicles and the importation of spare utility vehicles (SUVs) began. The latter was done without payment of the ad valorem tax.

"There was also smuggling during [Gordon's] time," he said.

Disallowed expenditures

"I thought the issue is Gordon trying to get back Subic by fielding the President hostage with his impeachment threat. He wants to divert the issue. Why does he not answer his 900-million disallowed expenditures?" Peruano said in a text message to the Inquirer.

He said it was during the time of Gordon that smuggling began, with more than 300 vehicles evading P300 million in ad valorem taxes in the newly-adding jump week.

"He started the used vehicles auction by the Richie brothers, in trust during my term, conversion to left-hand was declared legal by the Office of the President Corporate Counsel, Office of the President and the Senate committee on transportation," Peruano said.

Gordon also appealed to his critics to "keep my wife out" of the controversy.

Former Olongapo Mayor Katherine Gordon, he said, had no plans to run for any elective position or join the SBMA.

He scored business owners for portraying the outside in a bad light by claiming they had political plans and that they were out to use Subic to wield such power.

"Whatever leaving mag-scene [the news-media]," Gordon said.

Gordon said it was his "duty to make sure [the Subic free port] succeeds." "That, he said, was his only agenda.

Gordon's concern for Subic stemmed from the spillout of Subic shipments and, much earlier, arrival companies like Asyn. He visited this city's some 300 factories gathered for Philippine City on Saturday.

"That is why I want to have a direct role in the development of Subic. If not, we are all going to suffer," he said.

Gordon said he found it a "weak excuse" by Limsiaton to resign because he found it inappropriate that a senator would be lobbying for posts or if he disapproved of the senator's nominees.

"I don't think it's the only reason. There may have been other reasons," Gordon said.

Governor Magsaysay

Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay was reportedly among the politicians who also lobbied Mr. Arroyo to accept the resignation of Limsiaton.

Last week, according to a top Zambales official, Magsaysay arrose Mr. Arroyo to complain about the SBMA policy against the auction of used vehicles imported via the free port.

Magsaysay, according to the source, facilitated the meeting between the President and Zambales Rep. Milagros "Milet" Magsaysay, the governor's daughter-in-law.

Representative Magsaysay reportedly supports the impeachment case against the President.

Governor Magsaysay confirmed he met with Ms. Arroyo last week but denied that he had sought the resignation of either Limsiaton or Antonio.

"I told the President that I support Mr. Antonio as administrator," Magsaysay told the Inquirer in a telephone interview yesterday.

He said his daughter-in-law was not at the meeting. The governor also said he did not discuss with the President who to designate to take stand in the impeachment case. **With a report** from Christina O. Arevalo

28 hurt in Basilan . . .

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passengers tried to save themselves, rushing down to the wharf.

Mostly old seconds from the injured and the wounded filled the air. A look of terror haunted passengers' faces. Mothers asked one for their children.

Seven victims suffered major burns and 21 minor burns.

The Philippine National Police immediately placed all its forces around the country on heightened alert.

Police said it was an incendiary type explosive, which was why the victims did not suffer deep-seated wounds.

He said the military's bomb experts had recovered some burned plastic materials from the scene.

"That explains why some passengers smelled something before the explosion," he said.

Suspect flees

The minister before the blast, witnesses saw a man place a small plastic bag containing a box on the steward's counter, he said.

"The man hurriedly left and alighted from the ferry," added Ferrer.

Ferry owner Nicholas Uriarte, 61, said he was walking near the canteen when a loud explosion ripped through the ferry.

"I ran down and removed my face with my hands. I heard people running away on the upper deck yelling, 'Bomb! Bomb!'" Uriarte said by telephone from a Lantawan hospital, where he was being treated for burns on his left arm.

A passenger who only gave her name as Divina, a criminology student at the Universidad de Zamboanga, said that before the explosion, she and other passengers smelled what seemed like LPG.

"All those who were seated near the canteen noticed the strong odor of gas," she said.

Divina believed it was a gas leak from the ferry's kitchen that caused the explosion.

No group claimed responsibility for the second bomb attack in the south this month.

"It appears to have been created by an IED that was left near or on top of the counter of the ship's canteen," Armed Forces spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Bayuca told the Inquirer.

"The force of odor dispersed after the explosion was like of gunpowder or some kind of chemical," he said.

Samal unit investigators had found traces of black powder and saltchemists inside of the stove, as well as pieces of a camouflage and sandals.

Abu Sayyaf hand

No strong device has been recovered and there was only one explosion, he said.

"If it is established that it was a bomb attack, then no one will discounting the possibility that the Abu Sayyaf did it," said Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

Basilan is a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf, whose number four supposedly decimated as dozen died was following persistent military offensives.

The Zamboanga rebel band just undergone a massive reinvention for a cold-cut rich-off facility. It was funded by the US government.

Three days ago, US Charge d'Affaires Darryl Johnson led the inauguration of the facility.

Major Rhoderick Parayno talked out any terrorist angle.

Blast at breakfast time

"We don't have information from the crew members that there were some materials for blast falling around inside one of the crew members's rooms, and the room was just adjacent to the canteen," he said.

A portion of the canteen was destroyed, but the wood was largely intact.

Vice Mayor Jimmy Andong said some of the ferry's 204 passengers were taking breakfast or just talking around when the bomb exploded.

Since last year, the Coast Guard has deployed one marshals aboard passenger ships to prevent terror attacks. **With reports** from Lolge A. del Puerto and Lyla de Asilaver in in Manila

'I can't grow old; there's much to do'

ALDAY: I am used to giving up things that will give me joy in order to serve others

By Tarra T. Quismundo

DAYS while her career of selfless service for the underprivileged spans 50-year-old Lucena Alday still wants to do more.

"I continue to pray for God to give me enough because I can do more. I cannot grow old because there is so much more to be done," said the petite Alday, standing tall before a crowd of different generations, mostly younger than her, who have gathered to pay her tribute.

For public service that has spanned more than 50 years, Alday is this year's recipient of the Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Award given out by the Manila chapter of leadership development organization Junior Chamber International Philippines (Jaycees) Inc., and the AY Foundation Inc., the social service arm of the Yuchengco Group of Companies.

"Growing in my call, I had to look for an opportunity to be of service to others, and so it became a habit for me," Alday told the audiences in her acceptance speech.

Adjudged most deserving out of dozens of nominees from all over the country, Alday was handed her award on Friday at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium in RCBC Plaza in Makati City. It is the latest of more than 200 accolades Alday has received since she began her career in public service in the 1940s.

Last year she was Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin awardee.

"The Lord indeed is very generous. He can not be outdone in generosity," said Alday thanking the awards committee.

An educator and social worker, Alday began her life as an all-around helping hand for working as a teacher and pastoral counselor in Bukidnon, Manila, in 1937.

"One time in Bukidnon, I was going to the market and I saw a mother carrying her baby. When I asked her where she was going, she said she was taking a jeep to take her sick baby to the hospital," Alday told her listeners.

"I smiled up giving her all my money and I walked back home and stayed inside all day with nothing to eat," she added.

In the same spirit, Alday shared half of her cash prize to her choice foundations, among which she had long been involved with as a volunteer.

Shortly after being handed her P1-million prize, she became benefactor anew to the Philippine General Hospital Foundation, the Philippine National Red Cross, the Marian Marvelous Memorial Hospital Foundation, the National Press Club Foundation's scholarship committee and the Sto. Niño de Pandacan Church. Alday also took foundation a check worth P100,000.

"I am used to giving up things that will give me joy in order to serve others," she told the awards committee in a taped interview shown during the ceremonies.

Alday, a native of Cuenca, Batangas, also served as counselor of Manila in 1961 and, during her term, created the Manila Department of Social Welfare.

She also pioneered educational projects for her city's underprivileged youth, including the Tondo Education Program for out-of-school youth, a rehabilitation program for youth offenders, and a feeding program for the malnourished.

"I was even called Mother Teresa of Pandacan," said Alday.

She also served as director of the Bureau of Women and Minors of the Ministry of Labor and Employment under the administration of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

"Her able representation in many international conferences and seminars in varied subjects such as labor and employment, women and minors, and social development, has helped elevate the status of women here and abroad," the awards committee said in a summary of Alday's life as notable servant.

Currently president of the Philippine Elderly Persons, Inc., Alday recently established the Grandparents Organization of the Philippines, aimed at encouraging senior citizens to take part in educating children through different innovative programs.

While Alday, at her age, has already outlived the Blessed Teresa by a year, it remains to be seen if she would ever cease to exercise her lifelong mission.

"Anyone out there who has been trying to live a life for the poor, the needy, the underprivileged, join me and let's do that together. All of us can be a Mother Teresa," said Alday, receiving cheers and applause from the audience.

What the award is all about

THE BLESSED Teresa of Calcutta Award is given out yearly by the Manila chapter of the Junior Chamber International Philippines (Manila Jaycees), and the AY Foundation Inc., the social service arm of the Yuchengco Group of Companies.

The award was established in 1980 to recognize public servants who live the example of Mother Teresa, the Albanian nun revered by the world for devoting her life to serving and caring for unwanted children, destitutes, the sick, and the dying.

Traffic reduction plan test run set

A TRAFFIC reduction scheme touted to be a timely measure in the midst of a global oil crisis would soon be tested on Edsa, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) announced yesterday.

Early this month, the MMDA-headed road sector, Organized Bus Route (OBR) scheme, a system that would restrict the number of buses on Edsa by limiting dispatch based on commuter volume at a given time, is readying officials said.

"We could not say exactly what date yet, but we are hoping that we could have dry run within this week. That's a possibility, if we are able to address the concerns of bus owners and operators," said MMDA Deputy Chief Jojo Lacuna.

Metro ratings had listed the OBR as part of a national energy conservation effort, in the face of soaring oil prices.

The MMDA had said the bus allotment could cut down bad experiences for transport users, as it would reduce daily bus trips from the usual average four to at least five.

It was first implemented as a traffic reduction experiment in December 2004, to target buses plying common routes to ease traffic choked Edsa. Its demands at some endpoints—Sucat, Mabalacat, Balintawak, Novaliches, Alabang, and Baclaran—had been established by the program's full implementation.

During a meeting on the 14th last week, Lacuna said bus operators and company owners opened up to MMDA officials and expressed apprehension about their fate under the OBR, in the midst of continuous upswings of oil prices as fringe factor.

"The only worry, per line, and they were agreeable to the implementation of the OBR. They only apprehension is that volume buses might still continue to operate even when we push through with the OBR," Lacuna said in a phone interview yesterday.

"That's another feasible move if would seem astute to them if we restrict them, and the volume buses would continue to ply routes illegally," he said. Doris U. Bacalso reports

Metro potholes covered up, says DPWH

EXPECT a smoother ride in Metro Manila.

All of the 13,000 square metres of potholes found on Metro Manila's national roads have been patched over with asphalt as of the last week, according to Robert Lah, director of the National Capital Region office of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

"To be honest, it's a bit delayed, but we're already repaired 100 percent of the potholes," he told the Inquirer.

The deadline for repairing the potholes, which cost P4 million, was Aug. 22.

But Lah also said DPWH personnel would be monitoring the repairs continuously because heavy Roads and traffic could damage the road and cause new potholes to appear.

"Since it's raining, we're prepared for potholes to appear again. Sometimes, the cars are so jam-packed we get broken again because of the rain and floods," he said.

He added that because of this, there may be times in the future that less than 100 percent of the potholes would be considered repaired.

To prevent their work from being destroyed, Lah said DPWH personnel have also been cleaning gutters and waterways to reclaim flooding, since it is one of the causes of damage on the roads. Lolita R. Salamat reports

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PSHS alumni homecoming set on Sept. 2

THE PHILIPPINE Science High School will hold its grand alumni homecoming and thanksgiving night on Sept. 2, 2005. For days, at the PSHS Diliman Campus Gym.

The year's first batch, Batch 1986, promises a night of fun, fellowship and great music.

Popular band Slowsways will entertain alumni with contemporary rhythms starting at 8 p.m. Then at 9 p.m., the alumni will go back in time as they swing and groove to the '70s and '80s music of 6 Clock.

Registration starts at 4:30 p.m.

For further information, the alumni may call their respective batch representatives

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Tutors dispel fears over ISM auction

By Tarra Y. Quismundo

FILIPINO teachers of International School Manila (ISM) seem to be dispelled fears expressed by foreign business chambers about the school's auction set to be held a week from now.

"I think it's unfair for the foreign chambers made that comment. They are here because they are looking after their businesses, but this is a school issue, not an economic one. They are making this an economic issue," said Raquel Israel Ching, president of ISM's teachers' union, the International School Alliance of Educators (ISAE).

Foreign chambers had expressed concern about the ISM's auction, which was ordered by the labor department due to the school's non-compliance with a five-year-old Supreme Court order requiring them to pay some P7.2 million in back wages to 197 Filipino union members of ISAE. The school's bank accounts were also frozen.

Israel, seven foreign chambers, including the American, Canadian, European, Australian, New Zealand, Korean, and Japanese chambers of commerce, among whose members send their children to ISM, had said in a statement that the auction might force the school to close down.

ISM's closure, they said, could prompt their member firms to redirect business placements in the country, as the lack of an international school "would indeed limit the [expatriate] employment opportunities for [our] families to remain in the Philippines or move to Manila in the future."

But ISAE said the school would not even have to be auctioned off, much less shut down, if ISM only complied with the high tribunal's 2000 order, the implementation of which was lawfully required through a writ of execution the Department of Labor and Employment issued on July 16.

"What is most critical is that they ISM] respect the Supreme Court decision. We are talking simply about upholding the rule of law," said Ching yesterday.

After a 14-year legal battle against the ISM, the school's 94 plaintiff teachers, some of whom had already retired, won payment of benefits and salary differential covering five years, from 1995 to 2000. They had sued the school for paying Filipino teachers less than it did teachers hired from abroad. The payback however has yet to be given.

Ching said the ISM would not be financially hard hit if it paid back its teachers, as the school earned an average of $1.6 million per year. ISM has roughly 1,700 students paying between $10,000 to $14,000 per school year, Ching said.

The ISM administration used to follow a "two-tier" salary structure that gave higher wages to foreign hires. After the 2000 Supreme Court decision favoring the ISAE, the school adopted an equal pay system for both local and foreign hires but said this only covered future pay.

Speeding bus rams bus on Edsa, 27 hurt

By DJ Yap

A SPEEDING bus rammed into another bus, then hit two other vans along Edsa before midnight Saturday in Quezon City, causing injuries to at least 27 passengers.

A Nova Transport bus driven by Claudio Rabanes, 36, was trying to overtake another vehicle when it lost control, ramming into a RCR Transport bus in front of Gate 3 of Camp Aguinaldo at 10:45 p.m. along the southbound lane, traffic investigators said.

The impact sent the Nova bus, with plate number TPG-713, veering left into a van, which also slammed into another van, the investigators said.

Most of the injured were passengers of the Nova bus. They sustained wounds from glass fragments from the destroyed windshield and front part of the bus. Five passengers from the other bus were also hurt.

Rabanes sustained the most serious wounds in the bone and possibly fractured a rib leg, investigators said.

Some of the injured were rushed to the Quezon City General Hospital, while others were taken to the East Avenue Medical Center and Quezon Memorial Hospital.

The RCR bus driver was identified as Romeo Aggabao, 51. The two drivers were Reynaldo Noriega, 46, and Ronald Fabina, 29.

The investigators said the twin-lane manor drainages, while the Nova bus' front portion was mangled. Dead on the hood, the RCR bus' rear was also smashed, Mateo said.

One of the Nova passengers was Boris Refugio, 60, an MMDA traffic enforcer. He told investigators that Rabanes was overspeeding, and had allegedly engaged another vehicle in a race of sorts ("pagsisi") before crashing into the bus in front.

MetroBriefs

Actor in accident

TELEVISION actor Bernard Palanca figured in a traffic accident in San Juan early yesterday morning, Inquirer reports from the San Juan Traffic and Police. 29, was on the Greenhills Avenue/Santa Ortigas Avenue when his Mazda 6 was involved with a Nissan Cefiro which was making a u-turn to the corner of Annapolis Street at around 1 a.m. Police said Palanca's vehicle was struck a side but the actor sustained only minor injuries. He was brought to the San Juan Medical Center for treatment. His license and the license of the other driver, whose name was not released, were confiscated. Traffic investigator Pfc. Ely Ann Ramos said the accident was caused by the driver. Palanca is an ABS-CBN Talent and a member of the male group "Boy Abunda," who is a mainstay of the show "Boy" also aired on ABS-CBN. Alcuin Tan-alon Jr.

Major loses van

ALABANG major lost a van to an thieves in Quezon City between Saturday and yesterday morning, Major Dominga Sobrevy, 37, told police he parked the red Mitsubishi Van Compact at Blk 8 Alley 2, Road 9 in Project 8 at 3 p.m. on Saturday. But the van was discovered gone at 3 a.m. yesterday, according to a report from Batis Police. Investigators learned that the van is a 2004 model with plate number VBN-940. Sobrevy is assigned with the Philippine Army headquarters support group in Fort Bonifacio, police said. JU Yap

Unauthorized agent

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation have arrested a man inside a mall in Manila for allegedly defrauding a mortgage firm representative through misrepresentation. The suspect identified as Ricardo Mesa, was allegedly held in connivance with Lolo Pascua to avail of a business loan worth P600,000 from the PC Bank Cherries branch in Makati City. The NBI said Arellano had claimed to be an authorized agent with legitimate connections to Ferrolane Realty Development Corp. Pascua, representing the said realty could be illegally processing of finances. But Pascua got suspicious and called up the bank to inquire about the loan. When the bank officer denied that they had received a loan application from her, Pascua immediately sought NBI assistance. Arellano was arrested last week at the scene of a planned money drop from Pascua to Arellano's Pinoy ex-Kuwait, Manila dating at entrapment operation. Margaret Deiz

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Suplico's own RUT
No Free Lunch: Deeper in debt

Fiscal plan to falter as growth slows

By Dharel L. Lazo

THE LOCAL economy will almost certainly miss government growth forecasts this year as record-high petroleum prices crimp consumption and investment.

Most independent economists in the public and the private sectors are now warning that slower growth will have broader implications on the country's ability to repay its local and foreign obligations.

Simply put, lower economic growth will translate to lower tax collections—and less money with which to pay the government's debts.

'Incredible' GDP forecast

If the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) is to be believed, the value of local economic output—the gross domestic product (GDP)—will grow by 0.1 percent in 2009. This is already deeply lower than last year's GDP growth of 4.6 percent.

Last week, however, Neda economists' projections were deemed "quite odd" by a meeting of the finance and economic affairs committee.

Committee chair Sen. Manuel Roxas II said the 0.1-percent growth forecast was "incredible," given recent reports of oil prices which have already pushed consumers to cut back on their purchases.

"At best, it will be very difficult to achieve this growth target," he said.

With growth coming in at only 4.6 percent for the first quarter—and with the second quarter expected to have grown between 0.4 and 0.5 percent—Roxas said the economy must grow by a staggering 1.7 percent in the second half for Neda's full-year forecast to be realized.

"No way will this happen," he said. "Maybe these numbers were made for some normal times."

It is possible for the economy to accelerate by one percentage point or higher in the second semester, despite a sluggish first half?

"That would be very, unlikely," said economist Cayetano Underwraps Jr. although he admits that it was not entirely impossible.

Balbosa, who headed the Neda in the early 1990s, explained that economic recovery in the third quarter usually rises as companies build up inventory in anticipation of the Christmas spending spree.

"But oil prices are very high and we've already done with two months of the third quarter," he said, pointing out that there was so far little evidence of pick up in economic activity. "So would? "This will impact on the government's tax collection for this year," he said.

In particular, he expected companies to report significantly lower income taxes since the slowing economy has their bottom lines. This, in turn, will likely result in weaker budget shortfall, and larger government borrowings here and abroad in order to fund the gap.

Even the central bank is worried. It now believes first economic growth will come in at only 1 percent, at best, by year's end.

Tougher times ahead

Despite hemmed up Filipino (BSP) Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said he believed that the economy was

P2 COL 6

For Filipinos, life to get tougher before it gets better

Sale of entire gov't stake in SMC seen next year

SMC headquarters in Ortigas

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE ARROYO administration will sell the government's 41-percent stake in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. next year, Finance Undersecretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. said.

"I don't think it (San Miguel sale) will happen this year. It still needs court approvals. Perhaps it will take place next year," Teodoro said.

The government holds roughly 41 percent in San Miguel, consisting of shares administered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) and the stakes of government financial institutions.

The government block is valued at roughly $2 billion or about P112 billion at current exchange rates.

Teodoro said that another government asset to be sold included a five-hectare property in Pasay, Manila owned by Manila Gas Corp. Smart investment arm National Development Co. (NDC) will oversee the sale of the property, he said.

Another property for sale is a 4.6-hectare lot that used to house the International

P2 COL 1

Currencies

Stock Market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Investors await VAT decision

Local execs tapped for VAT collection

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has deputized provincial, city and municipal treasurers as value-added tax collectors, hoping to shore up the national government's revenues by bringing collection efforts down to the local level.

Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves was scheduled over the weekend to sign a memorandum of agreement between the DOF and the Provincial and City Treasurers Association of the Philippines (Patcap), which is headed by Victor Endrigo.

The MOA was supposed to be signed in Davao City during a road show by finance officials. The road show was aimed at briefing people in the provinces about the coverage, impact and mechanics of the expanded value-added tax law (VAT).

Under the MOA, local government treasurers would regularly check on the VAT commitments of business establishments in their localities, and collect the tax on behalf of the national government.

Patcap, which volunteered to do the job, said local governments could substantially help raise VAT collection to the national level, given that they are more familiar with how businesses operate in their communities, Local treasurers could help plug lost potential in VAT collection arising from tax evasion, said Endrigo, Davao provincial and Quezon City treasurers.

He noted that his office has a record of over 65,000 business establishments that are VAT-registered, while the Bureau of Internal Revenue only had 30,000 VAT-registering firms in its list of businesses in Quezon City.

The Patcap chief said that by tapping local treasurers as business consultants to collect VAT, the national government could even increase its collection to a level that might make it afford to do away with the implementation of the E-VAT law.

The VAT law, the administration's key revenue-raising measure, expanded the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity, among others.

Also, Patcap has forwarded a request to the national government for the latter to share information on the financial standing of large companies situated in their respective localities. Local governments (treasurers said they would) send the information to pursue their (self-)efforts to collect local taxes from the businesses.

The DOF, where it was still headed by former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, was said to have several thoughts about pooling local governments' resources to collect taxes for the national government.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, an attached agency of the DOF, earlier said it was going after some local government units that have unpaid tax liabilities themselves.

Deeper in debt

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

PETE Bilmudinglay's submission to Congress last week of the proposed 2006 budget, we got a glimpse of what the government expects its fiscal challenges to be this next year.

Among the most interesting numbers in the P1.01-trillion budget proposal are those pertaining to debt service. As widely reported in the media, a whopping P721.7 billion will be paid out for our total debt service requirements next year. This is broken down into P340 billion for interest payments, and P381 billion for amortization of principal.

The corresponding numbers for the year, as presented to Congress a year ago, are P391.7 billion for interest payments, and P344 billion for principal amortization, totaling up to P686 billion in total debt service payments.

Recent BSP worksheets now show the total figure to be P606 billion, implying that principal amortization payments have been adjusted to P364 billion while interest payments have not changed.

Meanwhile, the government expects to collect a total of P988.6 billion in revenues next year, leading to a target government deficit of P120 billion.

The revenue target is nonetheless 10 percent higher than the original 2005 projection of 736 billion, later adjusted to P788.5 billion with the addition of new tax measures this year.

But with recent news that the expected revenue increases from the revised tax rates has not materialized, the original figure seems more likely.

Better perspective

The following should help put these numbers in better perspective.

Next year, governments will spend on average of P1.08 billion per day for total debt service payments, or P931 million per day if you count only interest payments. The money would be enough to build 7,998 classrooms or 200 kilometers of road every day.

These debt payments are equivalent to 921 per day per Filipino, or P11 per day counting interest alone.

The revenues forecast represents a hefty 33 percent rise over this year's level. On the other hand, BIR has earlier this year posted a 31 percent increase in collections over last year, which is already quite impressive given its past record. And this is after the enactment of the revenue hi-the-electric tax on six products, which had been expected to boost revenues significantly.

But not only have revenues from this tax not been, they have actually even dropped slightly.

Ambitious, unrealistic

Next year's revenue target appears extremely ambitious to the point of being unrealistic.

It appears premised on a substantial increase in revenues coming from the VAT. But the law remains unimplemented, and there is talk that it will yet undergo revisions to remove or raise the P3 percentage cap on input VAT credits, and possibly remove the exemption on oil and power.

With government now operating on a political survival mode, these revisions are not unlikely views all these, I wouldn't bet on getting substantial incremental revenues from this tax either. Nor is it likely that the ambitious revenue increase will come from dramatically improved tax compliance and collection.

Reputable surveys have consistently been pointing to widespread distrust of the President and her government over since the "Hello Garci" scandal broke out. Amid growing calls for a tax boycott to express public indignation over alleged election fraud and widespread graft and corruption, I am convinced that dramatic revenue increases cannot be achieved under this President.

Down to 3 out of 4?

This year's figures imply that about 9 out of every 10 pesos collected by government will go to debt payments (i.e. P686 out of P788 billion, or 88 percent).

Next year's projected numbers imply that that will go down to just 3 out of every 4 pesos of revenue (P721.7 out of P988.6 billion, or 73 percent).

But as already noted above, this is premised on highly unrealistic revenue projections. The last time the Arroyo government targeted a deficit of similar magnitude to next year's projected P116 billion (i.e., P120 billion in 2002), we ended up with P320 billion instead.

In any case, next year's debt payments will exceed this year's by P116 billion or 16 percent, and yet we are only managing a 13 percent annual increase in revenues so far.

If this is the best we can do under prevailing circumstances, which seems likely under the current dispensa-

BOI call center launched

By Raoul R. Dongeo

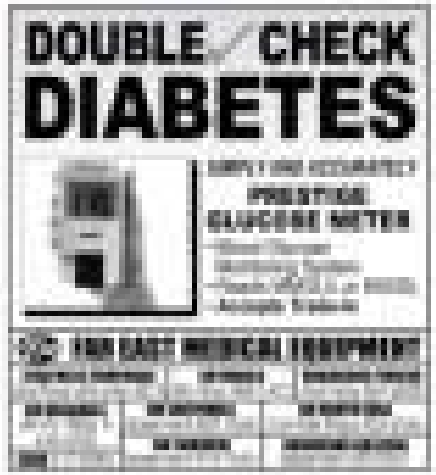
THE BOARD of Investments has launched a search-the-clock, call-center to investment markets in order to make investing in the country easier.

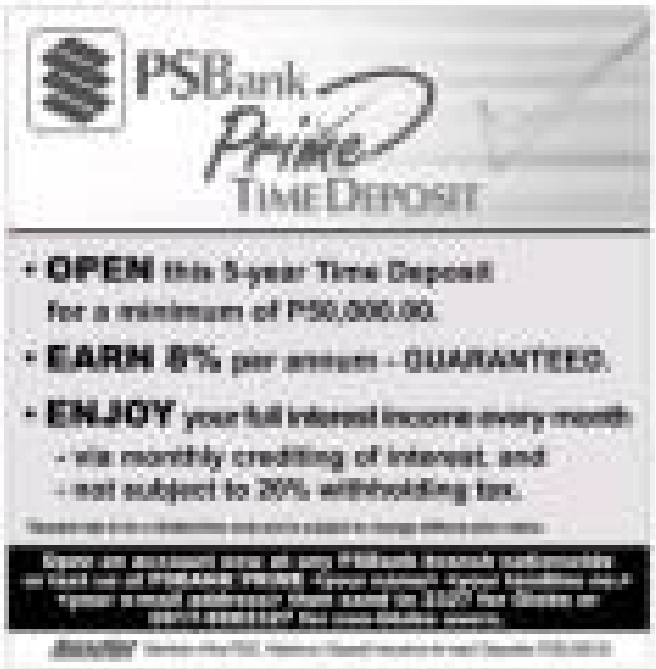
Trade Secretary Peter D. Favila said developments in technology have made it possible for investment information to be available 24 hours a day seven days a week.

"Even investors from around the globe need not go to Manila to get the data they need," Favila said.

The only need to dial 1-800-10-2-3000.

The system, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia, is currently across Asia, Canada and Australia calls only the United King from the United Asia.





PLDT asks Cojuangco to lower asking price for Dream TV

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has asked its former head, tycoon "Danding" Cojuangco, to lower his asking price for Philippine Multi-Media System Inc., operator of Dream Satellite TV.

An informed source said Cojuangco wanted $90 million for the company, but PLDT was only willing to cough up $25 million.

Sources said PLDT and the broadcast satellite provider nearly struck a deal last week, but did not push through due to price discrepancies.

However, both parties said negotiations were still ongoing and it is "very sensitive" stage.

Cielo Nieva, chair and chief executive officer of the Cojuangco-owned satellite broadcast company said a former PLDT official, said the telecom giant has been "in close pursuit of Dream," mainly because of its franchise to operate a direct-to-home programming.

Acquiring Dream Satellite is crucial to plans for the joint venture of PLDT and Internet's largest direct TV provider, Kingston Communications Inc., to finally take off.

PLDT and Kingston plan to invest $60 million to start pay television operations in the Philippines, through satellite receivers and not the traditional cable system that is prone to piracy and signal theft.

PLDT and Kingston has an existing memorandum with PLDT subsidiary eTipid, which provides internet or outbound call center services to subscribers of Kingston in the US since 2002.

Their investment to direct broadcast satellite business had been discussed as early as 2000 but difficulties in getting a franchise stalled the venture.

Danny Yahon PLDT's Mobility Satellite to broadcast content to more than 100,000 subscriber nationwide.

"But like owned, Dream is not selling. We are reserving to an offer made to us. We are a fast growing company. Our second largest pay TV operation is Dream," Bayan said.

Beyond Cable Holdings Inc., the joint venture of Lopez-owned SkyCable and PLDT's Home Cable, is the largest.

PLDT owns a share of the cable joint venture, which is also looking to exchange for control of Lopez-owned Bayan Telecommunications Phils. Inc.

Because of its pending joint venture with Kingston, PLDT would like to give up Home Cable in favor of Bayantel.

The investor said Benjamin Holdings Corp., which owns Bayantel, had been moving slowly after PLDT sold Cable Television Inc. also made an offer for the Lopez phone company.

As for Dream TV, another source said PLDT chief Manuel Pangilinan believed Cojuangco's asking price for the satellite company was "ridiculous."

Dream Satellite's service a more expensive than that offered by traditional cable providers because one has to purchase a satellite dish worth P 15,000.

Another source said that if talks with Dream fail, then PLDT would open negotiations with other direct-to-home providers, like Pacific Cable Inc. and SV Broadcasting.

Sy may hike stake in key listed firms

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE TYCOON of mall tycoon Henry Sy Sr. is studying the possibility of increasing its investments in key publicly listed companies.

SM Prime Holdings Inc. president Hans Sy said the group was always on the lookout for opportunities.

He said this when asked last week in a briefing if Sy Sr.'s group was still interested in increasing up to 51 percent stake in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. and 45-percent stake in China Banking Corp.

SM Investments Corp. (SMIC), the flagship investment company, last raised its stake in Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm to 44 percent, missing its total holdings to 21 percent.

While it already holds 6.6 percent or can boost stake in San Miguel, SMIC's additional purchase of 99 billion worth of shares at the stock market last week was not enough to get over limit.

SMIC corporate information officer Jose Ma. said in a telephone interview that while SMIC doesn't yet have a second board seat in San Miguel, it may be allowed to hold two board seats through proxies.

SMIC bought a 140 million class A SMC shares at the stock market at P65 a share. It said SMIC bought the shares from the SMC Retirement Fund at Fort Stock codes.

"SM's increased investment in San Miguel is a testament to its growing optimism on the latter's long-term potentials, having built a solid domestic business base for its alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, food, and packaging products which is the recognized market leader," his wrote in a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

He also said SEC move was bolstered by San Miguel's recent purchase of securities they got and National Foods Ltd. which is a "approximately given to the latter's cooling partnership contributes significantly to San Miguel's bottom line and cash flows going forward."

Sale of gov't . . .

Previous page B1

School in Bilaka. The sale of this property is targeted toward the end of the year.

Philippine National Oil Co. Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC), the country's biggest producer of geothermal power, is also up for sale. Its geothermal fields are in Leyte, Negros Oriental, Bicol and Cotabato.

Earlier, the government declared plans to finally dispose of its interests in telecoms firms BPH-Tel and IBC 13.

Investors await VAT decision

Previous page B1

international credit-rating agency's next verdict on risk premium for the Philippines, which will also create a bearing on bond rates' borrowing charges," said Grace Cordero of ZB-KIB Asia's own.

"But the VAT law seems to be a two-edged sword. While the implementation of the VAT law may be collaborative the additional tax collection would help the government remain on track with its fiscal program," BPI Trade said in a weekly report.

Last week, the main index dropped 1.6 points or 1.4 percent to 1934.56, dragged by higher oil prices and political issues.

BPI Trade said that market players have been focused on the ongoing impeachment case at the House of Representatives.

But the rather broker said that what has worried investors has been the phenomenal rise in crude oil prices, peaking at $80 a barrel last week.

The only bright spot, according to ZB-KIB Asia, has been the soaring currency, which took the Tuesday closing this week.

It posted seventy more or large cap, index-linked stocks, traders are anticipating a resumption in lack might be led by mining shares, similar to what transpired early this year. It might be timing to take a closer look at what current issues is conditioned by investors positions for mixed prices bullish chart performance, apart from recovering issues included top-of-the-oil supply and increasing demand from China and India among others."

ZTrader note said. — Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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LECTURE SERIES SCHEDULE

DAY 1: September 1 - Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
DAY 2: October 5 - Asian Institute of Management Conference Center, Makati City
DAY 3: November 2 - Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
DAY 4: November 29 - Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Suplico's own RUT

COMMENTARY

COCKTALES

Victor C. Ayson

OPPOSITION congressman Bobby Suplico has lately been riding his high horse, bashing GMA with RUT to end many bad and other alleged anomalies in a concerted push with a strange left-bloc-to-Erap-cell society alliance to oust the President.

Looking at the track record of his family's corporations, Suplico could very well use some housecleaning himself.

As of last week, the Securities and Exchange Commission had on record exhaustive of the annual financial reports of the Suplico-controlled Goodwill Bookstore in Glorietta since the Makati bookstore was incorporated in the year 2000.

All the SEC files had were the 2000 incorporation papers, which reported that the bookstore had a total of P100,000 to paid up capital, not even enough to pay for a monthly rent in the Ayala mall.

Suplico's wife, bookstore business Maria Teresa Cancio-Suplico, quoting the company accountant, maintained that the bookstore had complied with all the reportorial SEC requirements.

"The P100,000 capitalization is an initial history," she said.

In any case, Goodwill's original SEC registration documents, compared with the contrasting situations both between the Suplicos and the other heirs over the estate of the late publishing magnate, Manuel Cancio,

But that is another story.

Victoria's billions

IT looks like top corporate lawyer Victoria delos Reyes has been quite economical with the truth with the estate court and the taxmen as regards the value of her multibillion-peso windfall from her children's aunt who recently passed away.

A former bar examinee for legal ethics, Delos Reyes placed the value of the estate of her landed aunt, Pacita Trinidad delos Reyes-Phillips, at P1.66 million, and in the P2-3 billion estimate that the US-based husband during the late Miss Philippines 1929 had built up in so many durables clearing and investing.

Trinidad herself.

The two properties in Dasmariñas Village [illegible] on Meyerly Street, where Asia Pacific Bank,

CONTINUED ON B2

Alliance Global to expand McDonald's network

By Elizabeth L. Sánchez

HOLDING firm Alliance Global Group Inc. is expanding its food and beverage line under its newly-acquired franchise for food brand McDonald's.

McDonald's now end up with 20 more stores this year, bringing its total chain of stores operations to 260 by the end of the year, Alliance Global chair George Tang said at the AGM's stockholders' meeting Friday.

Tang said McDonald's is spending roughly P20 million for each new store.

"Alliance Global intends to push the McDonald's brand to interest more and more with the Filipino consumer] this is true. A number of stores are undergoing a facelift, [so] Mickey is shifting to a more aggressive mode and this call of the floor is to ensure the best of customer service," Tang told stockholders.

Last March, Alliance Global acquired 49 percent in the Philippine franchise of McDonald's for $13.85 million, making it 130-percent Filipino-owned. Alliance Global acquired the common shares held by [illegible] McDonald's Partnership in SAGM Asian Development Corp., Golden Arches

CLICK TO B2

BPI completes tender offer for Prudential

TORTUOUS offer by Bank of the Philippine Islands to buy up to 100 percent of Prudential Bank shares ended last Friday with stockholders owning 8.18 million shares representing 99.52 percent of the outstanding shares of the bank offering to sell their shares.

Prudential Bank is a mid-size commercial bank with about P68 billion in assets as of June 30.

While BPI has no immediate plans to merge with Prudential Bank upon acquisition, BPI is expected to leverage on the 204 years of banking experience, financial strength and proven expertise in electronic banking to improve Prudential's operating efficiency and the quality of its banking services.

Prudential Bank has a network of 107 branches and 82 automated teller machines nationwide that will permit a pool deposit to BPI's 700 branches and 1,300 ATMs nationwide.

The tender offer closure will herald the a special block sale of the Philippine Stock Exchange today

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BIR: Amusement tax collection weaker in H1

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE INCREASING prices of oil and commodities may have derailed the thirst for amusement out of consumers.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the government's collection of amusement tax—which covers places and events like cockpits, horse racing, boxing exhibitions, basketball games, and activities like those of bars and nightclubs—was weak in the first half of the year.

Collections by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, an attached agency of the DOF, stood at only P48.3 million in the first six months of the year—lower than the P62.8 million collected during the same period last year.

The first-half collection of amusement tax was also 30 percent short of the official target for the period, which was set at P169.6 million.

Amusement tax, which BIR collects from the proprietor, lessee or operator of amusement venues, has varying rates depending on the events covered.

An 18-percent amusement tax is imposed on customers of cockpits, cabarets and night and day clubs.

Boxing exhibitions, except when conducted in World Championship bouts or clubs, are subject to a 10-percent amusement tax.

Professional basketball games are covered with 15 percent, while operators of jai alai and racetracks are slapped 30 percent.

With the dwindling purchasing power of consumers, brought about by accelerated inflation of basic commodities, economists believe spending for amusement is one of the first expenses they will cut back on.

Inflation stood at 7.4 percent in July, much higher than the official target for the year of only 5 to 6 percent.

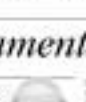
"The government might have set a very high target for the amusement tax and failed to project a likely drop in the number of amusement events like boxing exhibitions," a finance official said.

Meanwhile, BIR officials have ordered the revenue agency's "nationwide" operations.

Under the program, BIR personnel are sent out into the field to check on the tax compliance of business establishments, including day and night clubs.

Deficiency tax for payment may also be ascribed to areas the first tax amusement tax collection, especially from club operations.

The parliamentary nightmare



QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Romesh C. Gunasekera

JOSE V. Abueva's dream of a parliamentary government is also our recurring nightmare.

Abueva wants a unicameral constituent assembly (it is really a parliament with executive and legislative powers) to result of the proposed 11 independent states (please see my last month's column). He thinks and believes how.

A member of the state assembly is elected in each district (the existing congressional districts). Additional members are appointed from the various contending political parties according to a multi-tiered list equation. It is another way of increasing party-list representation, more dominated by the continuants. Besides, considering the huge cost of an electoral campaign, elected and appointed members in a parliament won't mix.

The members of the state assembly will explain the 79 provincial governors and 758 members of the provincial boards. These politicians will not take this lying down.

The state assembly elects the leader of the majority party or coalition as the state governor to head the state government. The state governor forms the state council (Cabinet) made up mostly of members of the state assembly. The state assembly also elects by majority vote a governor from among its members.

On top of these state assemblies is the bicameral parliament sitting in Manila. The members of the House are elected in the present 220 congressional districts by means of five years. Many to 40 more members are chosen as in the state assemblies (more communities).

Two or three senators (depending on the size of the state assembly) are elected—now get this—by the members of each state assembly usually from among their members. This will be a literate bold homage by the state assemblies.

The parliament elects the leader of the majority party or coalition as the prime minister who is the head of the government. He forms the Cabinet mostly from the members of the parliament. Again, no elected and 540 members.

The parliament and state assemblies elect the president in a five-year term. The president is the symbolic and ceremonial head of state. He symbolizes the sovereignty of the people and the unity and solidarity of the nation. He/she's, he is interested, just like Queen Elizabeth in the United Kingdom. He/she called state events, greets, set up a cheese and build a fire-in-town for our research.

The Supreme Court remains, but the Court of Appeals will have a chief justice and the regional trial courts, municipal courts and other inferior courts.

Abueva does discuss the immense cross-additional cost to the citizenry of experiment in Manila and 11 state assemblies, not to mention that each state will have its own judiciary and law department. The double burden of a state tax and a federal tax will be unbearable.

Also, imagine the noise pollution emanating from 11 state parliaments all over the archipelago and the 540 parliament in Manila. The nationwide cacophony will be deafening.

Abueva says that his plan empowers the Filipino people to chart their own destinies in their respective states. But he scraps the Filipino people of their cherished right to vote directly for the state governor and vice governor, the mayor, vice mayor, the prime minister and, above all, the president. The Filipino people will not allow themselves to be so grossly disenfranchised.

The twice-heralded measure of a federal republic under a parliamentary government will be created starting January 2007.

If the Abueva plan pushes through, the Filipino people will take years, if not decades, to come to grips with the complexities of the grandiose plan. The upheaval could be cataclysmic. The Philippines will likely not survive.

(More next week)

Fiscal plan to falter . . .

From page B1

to target of missing even this pessimistic forecast if oil prices continued rising.

Every 1% increase in the price of oil a barrel would result in a 0.1-0.14 percentage point drop in GDP growth, he explained. Inflation, on the other hand, rises by a corresponding 0.08 percentage point increase.

"Herewith can still drop below 3 percent," he said, stating the Philippines the slowest growing country in the region. Some cited from economists now believed that the country was nearing the end of an overheated five-year business cycle. For the Filipinos, this means life will get tougher before it gets better.

"2000 and 2001 will definitely be stable-ish years," Goldmansachs predicted. "Oil [prices] will remain high, and inflation will increase, especially when the expanded value-added tax comes into effect."

"Growth will not be so robust," he added.

Goldmansachs echoed Dahwargi's statement that the government's economic team would suffer in the slow economy could focus competitive and individuals to create faster income taxes.

"Definitely, it will have an impact," he said. Dahwargi, who also heads the Credit Information Bureau Inc., that measures the credit-worthiness of government and private firms, knows that foreign credit-rating firms are watching the government's fiscal position. To them, a credit-rating downgrade is never the fruits their minds.

The country's debt is already rated ten notches below the "junk bond" rating level. Another ratings can close to a week economy will be another blow to the economy's already tottering fortunes.

Breathing space

Some relief may come by late next year as the prices of goods and services begin rising at a slower clip.

The central bank expects the inflation rate to "normalize" at between 4-5 percent by the second half of 2002 as consumers get accustomed to high petroleum prices. Both also believe that the agriculture and services sector will once more carry the economy through.

The early, however, government planners are already preparing to throw their old, inaccurate forecasts out the window.

In a telephone interview, Economic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos said the Macapagal-Arroyo administration's Budget Coordination Committee would meet this week to revise economic growth numbers, presumably to make them less "incredible" to the public.

"These forecasts were made when oil cost as half a barrel," he said, blaming that even optimistic growth projections of the way until 2004 might be revised. "What happened was totally unexpected."

No free lunch

From page B1

ruary, this would mean that debt payments will far surpass tax revenue generation. Simply put, we would be getting even deeper in debt. I shudder to think where this is all leading us to.

Impeachment horror

When I ended last week's column by lamenting looking for the next best joke, I didn't expect that readers would actually send me some.

Here's one I hadn't seen yet: *Si GMA sembuyer sa tumbag. Kasuh: "Madam President, bawag niyo ang gawin yan! Mismis pa yung nagsumbat sa inyo!"* GMA: "Huwag kang mahiyan! Eto lang may egnat . . . Medium size!"

And another one: The brain of a Filipino politician has two sides: the LEFT side where there's nothing RIGHT and the RIGHT side where there's nothing LEFT!

Comments are welcome at shubb@pacnet.edu

Cocktails

From page B1

Upright Center, and the Miranda five, one in Landmag, whose neighbors include the German and Qatar ambassadors' already top P100 million.

The former beauty queen, according to whoever's counsel Vicente Claudius, she has a building in Binondo, another building in Plaza Dr. Jose Rizal, five more in Makati and Malate, several Malate condominium units in Gil-Puyat, Pasa, UPI, Manor, Orchantia Apartments, Cadiz Gonzalez, Legaspi Towers 300, a townhouse along Pichet Boulevard, satellite property in Emerald, Quezon City, a condominium unit in Regalia City, and club shares in Manila Golf, Manila Polo, Club Filipino and Makati Sports.

Claudius also says he has documentary proofs that the late beauty queen, at the time of her death, owned 36 lots in the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque, as well as a $400,000 account with Bank of America in San Francisco that Doña Rosario allegedly withdrew right after her son's death.

What is adding further spice to the controversy is that Brother Eddie spokesperson, couple Lynne and Trevor Nieva, spoke out, with Claudius Friday, in the hope that he, his lawyer, who is a longtime friend of the Nievas, would agree on an amicable settlement with the rest of the estate claimants.

Fill-in the accounting blanks

IF SGV must on Bakilan it on how accounting firm paper our serious audit issues and try to wriggle out of any pending accounting mess, take a look at how Joaquin Cunanan and Panungkuyan & Acosta performed their respective audit reports of the doomed procurement company Pacific Plans.

Alliance Global . . .

From page B1

Realty Corp. and TBM Development Corp.—companies led by Tang that hold the Philippine franchise for McDonald's. The remaining 51 percent is owned by Golden Arches of Tang's group.

Half of the amount Alliance Global invested in McDonald's was paid last March while the balance will be paid by September.

Alliance Global's recent entry into the quick-service restaurant business through McDonald's is expected to result in a sizable chunk of food and beverage revenue in 2001.

Recently, McDonald's opened its first store in Zamboanga last February, with about 150 employees.

As early as 1999, Alliance Global saw the food and beverage business as a major platform in its plan to diversify into a regional conglomerate.

Touting its newly-gained manufacturing, Alliance Global launched out in food and beverage, setting up its subsidiary Alliance Global Holdings Inc. to consolidate its interests and assets in food and beverage. The following year, the company acquired McDonald's PD-Kil International Ltd., gaining control of such popular food brands: the McDonald's line of juices, spreads, food preserves, and processed fruits and Fil-Oil shortening powers snacks.

Aside from these, it also distributes imported foods such as Campbell's soups, Kinnet & Julio Gallo wines.

"Our audits of the company's financial statements did not include the verification of the reasonableness of the actuarial reserve liability and insurance premium reserve," said Joaquin Cunanan in its 2003 audit.

The auditors when Panungkuyan & Acosta said the following year:

"The scope of our engagement for the audit of the company's financial statements as of and for the year ended Dec. 31, 2004 did not include the verification of the balances of actuarial reserve liabilities and insurance premium reserves... the balances of these accounts have been computed based on the actuarial valuation made by the company's actuary using the standards and guidelines set by the Insurance Commission."

And this was how the three examiner concluded their respective audits to raise the soundness do and stand-by.

In our opinion, except for the effects on the 2004 (2003 and 2002, in the case of Joaquin Cunanan) financial statements of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had our engagement included the verification of the balances of the accounts mentioned ... the 2004 financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Pacific Plans Inc. as of Dec. 31, 2004 ... in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the Philippines."

Heard through the grapevine

TELEVISION Commissioner Wenceslao Sorreta has tendered his resignation, allegedly because of pressure from Malacañan Brig. Lorenzo Tañada. Malacañang has lined up Bernardo Cheng, a protege of Finance Secretary Gary Teves, as replacement.

Email: cocktails_pdi@pdi.net or cocktails_pdi@yahoo.com

Gov't sees trade gap widening to $6.6B in '06

EXPORTS are seen to grow by 11 percent next year, higher than the projected export growth of 10 percent.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT expects the country's trade deficit to widen by about 19 percent to $6.63 billion next year from the projected $5.57 billion this year largely due to the rising global oil prices.

Robust billion from overseas Filipino workers and tourists are, however, expected to keep the current account and the overall balance of payments in a surplus position.

Documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and National Economic and Development Authority showed that imports were seen to grow at a higher pace of 11 percent to $50.77 billion from this year's projected growth of 10 percent to $48.44 billion.

These projections assumed that the price of Dubai oil would average at $53.64 per barrel next year, up from $48.45 per barrel this year.

From 2002 to 2006 or before global oil prices started to surge, the country's trade deficit grew by an average of only 4 percent each year.

The documents also showed that the current account surplus is expected to rise next year to $2.2 billion or 2 percent of gross domestic product, from $1.6 billion this year or 1.6 percent of GDP on strong migrant remittances.

"The BOP and current accounts will still be in a surplus next year," said BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

"We still have huge OFW inflows and that is basically the source of the current account surplus," he said.

Given the rising oil prices, he said the country would have to increase its export earnings by tapping new markets and diversifying new products.

"The [US Department of Trade and Industry] is trying to provide assistance in the form of more market information so that manufacturers will have better idea of where the markets are and what products are in demand in these markets," Tetangco said.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

The current account records trade in goods and services as well as transfers while the capital and financial account records loan transactions, investment flows, short-term capital and other related items.

Any transaction that gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident, such as importation or offshore investment, is reflected then in the BOP while any transaction that gives rise to a receipt payment, such as exporting or inward remittances and investment, is a surplus item.

From January to June this year, the country's trade deficit reached $2.13 billion, lower than the deficit of $3 billion in the same period last year.

BIR holding off collection of taxes from ecozone firms

By Michelle V. Nuevo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue agreed to hold off the collection of the tax liabilities of economic zone locators, some of which had wanted of layoffs if their tax and duty exemption privileges were withdrawn.

The BIR made this decision despite a Supreme Court ruling that said that those firms, except those located in Subic, were not eligible for fiscal incentives.

The SC ruling clarified that Republic Act No. 7227, which grants tax and duty exemptions, covers only firms in the Subic economic zone and, therefore, other economic zones should not use the law as a basis to grant fiscal incentives.

The Department of Trade and Industry, however, called on the authorities to maintain a status quo and not to collect the ecozone locators' tax liabilities, saying such a move would result in the pullout of investments in the economic zones.

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila said the DTI was pushing for the immediate legislation of a law that would legitimize the granting of fiscal incentives to these firms.

A petition seeking the reconsideration of the ruling was earlier filed with the Supreme Court.

Revenue Officer-in-Charge Jose Mario Bating said his office would wait until a legislative measure legitimizing the granting of fiscal incentives to economic zone firms before making its move.

Equity company offers to fund MRT-3 purchase

By Clarissa S. Batino

PRESTON Presidio Capital, a foreign equity company managing more than $2 billion in capital, has offered to assist the Arroyo administration in acquiring Metro Rail Transit 3 from the private consortium that built and owned it.

Government sources said Mexican had designed a structure that would allow the Philippine government to prepay its equity interest payments to Metro Rail Transit Corp. by selling bonds and using the proceeds of the debt issue to acquire MRT 3 from MRTC-it dismisses.

The government is planning to sell up to $300 million worth of long-term bonds to finance the acquisition of MRT 3 assets and equity from MRTC, a consortium composed of the JSI Estate Group, Ayala Corp., Rotonic Inc., Steglo Phil Investments.

Presidio Capital is one of the groups that had offered to buy a portion of Makati Stock Exchange Inc. to ensure shareholders to address the capital deficiency of the bourse, sources said.

Presidio's strategy, according to articles on the Internet, is "to originate investment opportunities" in different industries and companies operated by its management teams.

Transport Undersecretary Cirilito Manuel Jong said the equity company was optimistic that the sale of MRT bonds would attract investors.

Malacañang recently created an inter-agency team that would explore the possibility of buying out MRT 3 from MRTC. Preparing the private consortium had been proposed during the time of former President Estrada when the government renegotiated its build-lease-and-transfer contract for MRT 3 with the private group.

Gov't to raise $177M for bridge program

THE PHILIPPINE government will raise $176.9 million for a nationwide bridge-building project via a mixed loan facility from Deutsche Bank with credit enhancement from the US's Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD).

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the Monetary Board had approved the planned foreign borrowing, which would benefit the "Tulay ng Pagasa Project" of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

"This is to complement the development of the national highway," Tetangco said.

The loan facility denominated in Japanese yen, will have two components. It has a buyer's credit facility component accounting for 85 percent of the total amount and will be an official development assistance (ODA), and a commercial loan component payable in five years.

The loan is payable in 14 years, including a four-year grace period, and will be slapped an interest rate of 1.89 percent per year.

The commercial loan component will carry an interest rate based on 6-month Yen Libor plus 2.35 percent.

The country wants to tap more of ODA assistance from multilateral and bilateral donors to lower the cost of its foreign borrowings.

The government aims to tap about 70 percent of ODAs this year, representing 22.5 percent of its $4.66-billion foreign borrowing requirement.

Doris C. Dumlao

Distributed by Newspaper Times

roject

By Abigail L. Ho

KEPCO Philippines Corp., the country's second largest independent power producer, will be advancing $50 million to bankroll the implementation of the National Transmission Corp.'s (Transco) Luzon-Mindoro submarine cable project.

Transco president Alan Ortiz said the firm committed to invest in the project "to create a market for Ilijan."

The IPP has earmarked $450 million to add another 600 megawatts (MW) to its existing 1,200-MW Ilijan natural gas-fired power plant in Batangas.

Market

Kepco chair and chief executive Han Joon Ho said in an earlier interview that work on the Ilijan expansion would begin by late next year.

For the project, he said Kepco would be working with the same partners it had for the existing Ilijan plant.

Apart from Kepco, which has a 51-percent share in the Ilijan plant, other shareholders include Mirant Philippines Corp., Kyushu Electric Power Co. Inc. and Mitsubishi Corp.

Han said funding for the project would either come from project financing or an equity infusion by Kepco, depending on the financial environment.

Advances

For the submarine cable project, Ortiz said Kepco would only be advancing the funding for it so it could already be constructed at the soonest possible time.

Transco would repay Kepco's investment by offsetting this with future transmission charges, he said.

Apart from the submarine cable project, he said Transco would also be putting in place the Mindoro-Semirara line.

He explained that a mine mouth power plant could be constructed on the mine site to help augment the country's power supply.

The plant could have a capacity of between 200 MW and 300 MW, he said.

The Semirara mines are the country's premiere coal source.

With world oil prices escalating, the National Power Corp. will reduce the use of oil-based power plants when possible.

In Luzon, oil-based power plants will cease to operate next month. Priority dispatch will be given to plants using other types of fuel, such as coal, geothermal and hydro.

Under Napocor's cost reduction measures, the state firm is encouraging the blending of imported coal with local coal.

Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said blending local coal resulted in savings of P33 million last year for the state firm.

He said the Mirant Corp.-run Sual plant now had 20 percent of its coal requirements coming from the local market. Bulk of the plant's coal requirements still came from Chi-

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Baraki Formoso
Associate Editor Gina B. Zulueta

Noh theater comes to Manila

Naohiko Umewaka is in Manila to teach the intricacies of the ancient Noh dramatic tradition of Japan

By Arnulfo Fe. Guerrero
Correspondent

ONE fine day in feudal Japan, in the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries, a theater personage named Zeami (1363-1444) sat down and began to write and document all the theories of the traditional Noh theater, which up to then was an oral tradition.

The epic work grew into some 21 volumes, and was eventually translated into 30-40 languages.

"This was the beginning of the written history of Noh theater," notes Dr. Naohiko Umewaka a Noh master. "From that time on the diagram (notebook) became very fond of Noh. Then, all were formed Noh theory, and were even treasures of the era."

The writers then became part of the audience. The knowledge flowed down from family to family, from generation to generation. Then, says Umewaka, "Noh is one of the oldest living theaters in the world in terms of artistic history."

The Osaka-born, Tokyo-based Noh master is working up a month-long immersion during which he trained young actors the ...

SENSEI Naohiko Umewaka uses Noh makeup

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Time to cut loose

Whether you are a child of the '80s or of another decade, a concert-goer, theater-goer or one who has never gone to a musical, 'Footloose' guarantees you a great time

By Andie Ereneta
Contributor

POP singer Jay-R leads a powerhouse cast.

ANYONE who hears the theme song of the 1984 hit movie, "Footloose," will find it hard not to get up and dance. There's something about the music that just grabs you and sends electricity all over your body. No wonder when the theater re-produces the musical version of that film once more, I couldn't resist it, either. Yes, there is a Broadway musical version of "Footloose," and it's going to have a comeback run in the Meralco Theater this coming September.

OF STAGE

But that's pretty unusual of this story, for those who've never seen the movie, "Footloose" is about a city kid who moves to a small town in the midwest and discovers that dancing is forbidden. Its challenge to the local musician who banished the fun, rallying the young people including the preacher's daughter behind him. In the end, the townsfolk learn about love, faith, trust and freedom.

I got a hold of and fell in love with the original cast recording of "Footloose" the moment about four years ago when I visited New York. I have been dreaming about staging it in Manila ever since. It's fun that the cast for mine is not busy putting together shows for Trumpets, which doesn't really touch Broadway materials. So Ginara that all systems are going to mean "Footloose," it would have to be outside the theater company I've been serving for the longest time.

The question was—how was this going to come about?

Youth theater

Two years ago, one of Trumpets' resident directors, Chris Anonuevo-Chua, was tapped "Footloose" for her Trumpets Summer Playshop class system, and upon discovered a rampant production of it at director Elise Bay that school year. I caught both stagings and was delighted to see so many talented young performers—good enough to headline a professional theater production. I remember addressing the Playshop class and declaring that the time was ripe for "Footloose."

Two years later, Stages, an offshoot company of Trumpets, which has been for only direct responsible events and talent management, started going into producing shows. Here, following the Stages Buena Ross set up, Trumpets would continue to produce. Christine Ostrand, dubbers and family-oriented productions, while Stages would do concerts and Broadway. Voted first choice. Here's a major entertainment company behind me, "Footloose" the musical was finally ready to leap outright!

First step was putting together a formidable artistic team. Chua's, who knows the show like the back of her hand—so should I say four—to directing the stages production, this time with a full complement. Of Broadway productions, Ostrand choreographer Miss Johnson has coming up with simple yet innovative set, which when aided by lighting designer Jimmy Colmenares should capture the essence of middle America.

Jaylet Kiddy Aguilos is committing costumers that seem "fits even with today's look. Choreographers Jamie Lobertos and Jose Ingreso of the Filamentors fame have the reigns of "Song Dance" with big leap, while the awesome musical director G. Garcia, who was born by the way On "Footloose" soundtrack was released, breathes new life to timeless hit songs like "Let's Hear It For The Boy," "Holding Out for a Hero," "Almost Paradise," "I'm Free" and the ever classic title "Footloose."

Triple threat

Next most was finding the cast...the lead several were Seven Sisters, who played Ren MacCormack in the movie, actually that's a misnomer double. Live theater performances often in such trick, is we needed to find a guy who would really act, sing and dance. We found not one but two "triple threat" packages—M&E Pilares Jay-R, and local Trumpets of the band 17-20.

Jay-R, who moved to Manila from LA, and had to "fit in" before making his mark in the local show-biz scene, is perfect for the role. His urban airs and sexy Michael R&B style gives an edge to the role and songs. Jomari, on the other hand, is local to the theater as a child actor, went professional by winning the Nikko Hip-Young Singers competition, joined a boy band in his teens, and now enjoys a solo career. Those of us in the know couldn't be happier because he is an incredible talent.

Playing the love interest of the three is MTV VJ Iza Villanta, who as impressed the audition panel that she really clinched the role of the rebellious pastor's daughter Ariel, second in the film by Laurie Hagen.

"Footloose" auditions attracted so many fresh talents. It was a task unto. Elsie down hundreds of aspirants to a preselection cast of 30. Among those who made the cut are Gian Magdangal of TV5's "Pinoy" actresses Eddie Gutierrez and Mikee Quintos, MTV VJ Rian Ricafort Hotman Lana, Star Dance Studio Jamel Cabrera, "Star Is a Million" finalist Yeoj Jacinto and Pil Ann Rosario Nicholls.

We also have a cool blend of kid-friendly ones kids—Johanne de la Fuente and Bella Silvestre—and Alessio Mon Bagindala—Carlos Romero, Miles Reyneses, Kyle Rivera, Ivan Bosoro, Andre Fernandez, as well as products of Trumpets Playshop JC Garingan, Dom Bowel and Jacob Villasoto.

Strong support

Leading the young cast are strong support are stalwarts Agot Isidro, Cris Villanueva and myself. We were all agreed to play parents to those teenagers! But the roads all we are go to sing emotionally charged songs written specifically for the musical. Remember the scene where we say "Mini Magnum" Bobbie Guevara and Raul Montesa, Trumpets trademark Jessie Nicole, John Waddell, Mitch Saño, Ann Agulino and Raymund Countryano.

If the energy, fun and inspired performances over at rehearsals are an indication, audiences of Stages are in for a real treat. Now, back to the music that nobody can seem to resist dancing to and the show that just had to be staged. Whether you are a child of the '80s or of another decade, a concert-goer, theater-goer or one who has never gone to a musical, "Footloose" guarantees you a good time. So give in to the rhythm song's chant: "Everybody cut loose... Everybody Footloose!"

"Footloose" the musical runs Sept. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 at 2 p.m. at the Meralco Theater. For tickets, call Ticket World at 891-9999 or 0917-8457837/0927-7222, or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph.

PPO opens concert season Sept. 9

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

CONDUCTOR Eugene Castillo

"STORIES that are familiar and comfortable, old and new, as well as to school. Full of the music which ensure the first programs of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) new concert season start beginning Sept. 9.

With the theme "Magic of Music," the PPO will give a total of eight concerts until the end of the season on April 7. Each concert will reflect a sub-theme that reflects a part of the main theme.

In a press launch recently at the Manila Philippine Plaza Hotel, Eugene Castillo, PPO music director and principal conductor, stressed the magic of music, which can transport us to other worlds, into our innermost selves, and to the hearts of listeners, and move them to all kinds of love.

The theme, the first time the PPO will have one, will serve as a framework of the concert season, facilitating more effectively and unifying all featured programs in the series.

Premieres

Most works included will be heard for the first time in Manila and in Asia but the series also includes the premiere of the Philippine works of Stadium will be featured over the next two years.

Castillo outlined the brilliant season he sees to music director and principal conductor to compose the theme of programs. His primary goal was to stimulate the audience's interest.

To heighten the audience's listening pleasure and develop its appreciation for new works, Castillo holds an informal chat between listeners and the featured artists in the Little Theater for half an hour before curtain time.

Castillo acknowledged the help of Dennis Marasigan, marketing director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, in conceptualizing the theme of the season.

Marasigan reported that PPO's subscribers went increasing. CCP artistic director Raymond Josef, who gave the welcome remarks, stressed that keeping the artistic pursuit of the orchestra was a must. Music Julio G. Tan, a subscriber, said she found the new PPO to be very interesting and user-friendly.

Romantic program

The first concert on Sept. 7, "Romantic Beginnings," features guest violinist George de Guzman to Leighton's Symphony No. 3, "Leader Illusions," which will open its Philippine premiere. Completing the program are Alfredo Buenaventura's "Symbolismo," and Mendelssohn Symphony No. 3 in C minor, Op. 68.

"When Worlds Collide" follows on Sept. 7, with Ingrid Isaac Instruments as featured soloist in Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 25. The program will still feature the Philippine premiere of Takemitsu's Star Isle, will close with Hector Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique Op. 14.

Two more works will be premiered in the last two.

"Metamorphosis," on Nov. 11—Marjorie Evasco's Romantic Symphony, and Michael "Boots Thomas' From the Diary of Anne Frank. Sylvia Mercado will be guest pianist Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 in C Major rounds the program.

The PPO performs at the Folk Arts Theater grounds on Dec. 9, "Christmas Symphonic" will feature the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Ateneo Blue Repertoire and guest conductor Mark Allen McGee. The program includes Handy-Kessler's Christmas Love Suite, Constantino Tinhon's Concerto for Harp and Chamber Orchestra, Op. 197, Mikhail Glinka's Ave Maria and Harp, J. 90, and Gomez's a Cavalleria Rusticana and other holiday favorites.

The New Year will be greeted with the last 11 concert where the transcend Throw Astounding Pieces by Anthony Turnage, and Mikhail Nowak's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, Op. 31, with Sara Joelle Bueckers as featured soloist, featuring Ralph Vaughan Williams' Symphony No. 2, "A London Symphony," concludes the program as enclosed on the theme "From Big Ben to Hollywood."

All-Philippine show

February, National Arts Month, is devoted to an all-Philippine program, following the success of a similar program featuring this year. Maestro Oscar C. Yatco, conductor laureate, is featured conductor.

On Feb. 18, "Philippine Sonata" will see the world premiere of two Philippine works—Michael Dadap's Concerto for Guitar and Orchestra, and Cond. Jo's Rhodri, Lucenio R. Kadlap's Philippine Scenes and Tagalog titles. Jonas Drilon's complete Overtures.

The "Overtures Abroad" will be the theme of the Pianists Month concert on March 18 with guest soprano Alison Buchanan. The works of Jean Tenen and Amy Beach, finalist for the Outstanding Women and Symphony No. 2 in E minor "Gaelic" Op. 32, respectively, will be heard for the first time in the country.

Other works in the program are Saint-Saens' Bacchanale from Samson et Dalila, Roberto Gerhard's Ballet de Divertissement concertino de Schubert's Gades premieres, and Mozart "Ah, dolce contento" aria from Salome.

The April 7 concert, "Transfigured World", will have Ukrainian artist Oksana Skowronska as featured soloist in Yuriy Oleyko's Concerto No. 3 for Violin and Orchestra, Completing the program are Schoenberg's Verklarte Nacht (Transfigured Night) and Shostakovich Symphony No. 15 in D minor, Op. 47.

Except for "Christmas Symphonic," concerts will be held at the CCP Main Theater at 8 p.m. Call CCP box office 8321704; Ticketworld at Robinsons Bookstore, and Tower Records, 8910999; or visit www.culturalcenter.com.ph or www.ticketworld.com.ph.

THE PHILIPPINE Philharmonic will perform right concerts for the new season.

All-male 'The Taming of the Shrew'

WILLIAM Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" goes onstage at Rep's Globe Theater at Greenhills from Sept. 1 to Sept. 25.

Director Bart Guingona presents Shakespeare's romantic comedy as it was originally presented—with an all-male cast. To complete the throwback in time, the actors will be performing on a stage based on the old Globe Theater, made famous in Elizabethan audiences by the popular movie "Shakespeare in Love."

Baptista, a rich gentleman of Padua, wishes to marry off his two beautiful daughters, Bianca and Katherine. The eldest Bianca has many suitors but still not many before Katherine, whose shrewish temper terrifies men and prevents them from approaching her.

One of Bianca's suitors, Hortensio, persuades his rich and witty friend Petruchio to woo Katherine so he may marry Bianca. Petruchio does so and he finds success and feud. Finally wins Katherine's hand.

Although usually seen as Shakespeare's misogynistic play, the role of women which may at present be regarded as political hypocrisy, some critics believe that, considering the political situation at that time, it may also be interpreted as an allegorical text espousing obedience to lawful authority.

Whatever it may be, it is certainly one of Shakespeare's funniest comedies. It was adapted into a popular Broadway musical, "Kiss Me Kate," which also became a popular movie.

The cast includes Joel Trinidad and BJ Arevalo alternating in the role of Katherine, Jeffrey Jeturian as Petruchio, Roeder Bayuga to the third role of Bianca and Cinesio, Raggedy Shandon and Ansel Carcino play brothers Baptista and Vincentio, respectively. Jojo Tagarao as Tranio, Hans Echevia as Bianca's love interest Lucentio, Oliver Dolores and Bingsling Rondez as Hortensio and Gremio, Hernando Guerrero, and Micah Muñoz and Jack Salud as the servants Biondello and Nathaniel.

"The Taming of The Shrew" will have special subscriber performances on Sept. 3 and 5 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 4 and 25 at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are available at Ayala Triangle and Rockwell Ticketworld outlets. For more information, call the Rep office at 6877477 or e-mail rep@bellnet.com.

PJ Rebodilla as Katherine, Topper Fabregas as Bianca, Nic Manalac as Petruchio, Nico Echevia as Lucentio, Jack Salud as Nathaniel and Micah Muñoz as Biondello.

Noh theater comes to Manila

Performances are on Aug. 30-31 p.m. and 7 p.m., Ateneo Hall, University Theater. UP Diliman, and on Sept. 2-3 p.m. and 6 p.m., CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute).

Sensei's mission

"My mission is to introduce these thoughts, these theories of Noh," says the Noh master. The philosophy of Noh is such, cannot be explained in relation to "it will be like explaining the philosophy of Immanuel Kant in 10 minutes."

Noh is mystical in themes, with the actors serving as masks. "With a mask I can be anything," points out Umewaka. "I can be a ghost...a evil person, a Buddha, be old, be a woman. "The musical instruments are a flute and three drums of varying pitch.

"So I'm here to teach the basics, physical techniques, how to play the musical instruments, exercise, discipline," says the Noh master. "And then we can continue this next time, because next year is the 30th anniversary of the Philippine-Japan diplomatic relations. And July 23 is Philippines-Japan day."

Umewaka is still young, and a fellow fond of telling corny jokes. But he turns serious once he discusses his art.

So, what's the difference between Noh and Kabuki? "That's like comparing Classic and Shakespeare," he quips. "The Noh language is much older. Kabuki is not that old, and there are no women actors here."

One of the Noh members to be presented, Sagiri Dojoji from Hojoki, is 900 years old. Noh is the oldest form of theater in which the two-male characters pacify themselves, climb solo, and pacify the stage with the help of an assistant.

The conditions are strict. The actors should abstain from sex for a month before the final performance. Alcohol is also banned. Vegetables are fine. I have, and he does not have to be less than rule.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

Take a shot at heritage

THE MANILA Post Office (topmost) after the Second World War. The building now (above) as photographed by Lito Kahn

Binondo old-timers hit City Hall for changing Calle Nueva to Yuchengco Street

PHILIPPINE history and culture are reflected in heritage architecture—in dwellings, places of worship, and other buildings that record the development and aspirations of people.

The cities in Philippine cities today show how these aspirations have largely remained afresh, unrefined.

Two photo competitions on Philippine architectural heritage have been announced to find out whether there still remains anything distinctive in our cities.

The Filipinas Heritage Library, with the Fundación Santiago and Filipino Heritage Festival, announces a nationwide photo competition to showcase and present Philippine architecture.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalón

The contest is open to amateur photographers and has limited or digital entries each. A maximum of two entries are allowed per participant. Each entry shall consist of a contemporary photograph and a vintage photo dated not later than the mid 1960s from local libraries, institutions, or from historic the photo archive of the Filipinas Heritage Library.

The Manila deadline is Sept. 15, the Visayas deadline, Oct. 14, and the Mindanao deadline, Dec. 15.

Photos entries are to be submitted to the Regina Mansion at Gonzalez Street, Binondo and, 634-4065-52, 634-6034764), and the Mindanao entries, to the Office of the President, dormer de Zamboanga University, La Purisima Street, Zamboanga City (tel. 992-991,007 I local 1300).

Winners will win cash prizes. They entries will be exhibited at the Filipinas Heritage Library in May 2006.

Photo contest on Manila

The historian Gervasio is holding the photo competition, "Manila, My Manila," whose theme is taken from the words of the celebrated actress and diamond queen Pilar Hidalgo.

The competition embraces all photographic whose subject is Manila in all of its empire, every taken from January 2006 to the present ("Manila" covers all cities and municipalities of Metro Manila).

Deadline is Sept. 15.

The first prize winner will receive a Nikon D70 Digital SLR Camera Kit worth P65,000 and P35,000. The audience choice prize winner will receive a Nikon P50 Hi-ASA 800 digital Camera (worth P15,000) and P10,000.

The competition is open to all photogra-

THE FRENCH Renaissance-style Lunsia Hotel when it was opened in the early 20th century (left), and the building now abandoned (right) as photographed by Liza Raho

THE GOTHIC San Sebastian Church of the Recoletos before as the ruin of the 20th century (below), and as it stands now (left) as photographed by Eugene Kerma

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Take a shot at heritage

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plans, professional or amateur, Filipinos or residents of the Philippines, 16 years old and above.

Entries must be original, unpublished, and taken during 2005. A participant may submit up to two entries.

Dimensions should be from 8x10 inches up to 11x14 inches. Copies may be black-and-white or color, and should be printed in Basic or Mirrilis photo paper. They should be framed ready for hanging in either black or white matte board (with one-inch border). The medium can be either film or digital. No essay or disk or through e-mail will be accepted.

For more forms, information and submission details, contact Instituto Cervantes, 2515 Leon Guinto corner Estrada Streets, Malate, Manila (tel. 526 1462-65).

All the entries will be screened by a panel. After the screening, qualified entries will be displayed for exhibition at the Cervantes 3 in October as part of the Fiesta Española festival in Culture and the Arts 2005.

Heritage watch

Jean Marfil, who shows memorable walking tours of Binondo streets and other Manila places, e-mailed a plea: "I'm reporting this in the hopes of getting our street names back. A few days ago this streetwalker and once-upon-time Binondo resident had a major jolt in his sense sense of direction. He couldn't find the street of his childhood.

THE PALMS Building of the University of Santo Tomas (supreme), designed and built by the Dominican friar-engineer Roque Ruaño, in 1927. The building at present (above) as photographed by Eric Roque

"I can only imagine... what the residents and businessmen of Nueve Street in Binondo must have felt when they woke up about a month ago and suddenly found themselves staring at [the old] Nueve street sign (now reading) ET Verbongco — a name so unrelated to what generations have known as Calle Nueve.

"For generations, this busy stretch has always been known as the 'new' (nueve in Spanish) street, a reminder of the day it opened in the year 1863 to ease traffic from our district's main avenue Calle Binondo (today Quiñobo Heredia Street).

"Old Chinese called it Ao-lian-'ta or [the street] 'behind the main avenue'. Today, this stretch assumes value in probably Chinatown's last gasp-ness of cobbles — a reminder of its Spanish-colonial origins.

"It [Calle Nueve] may not be as 'new' as it was in the 19th century, but up until its name was changed, everybody called it Nueve. Now we have to grapple with a long and frankly-not-so-catchy name tag: ET Verbongco.

"We, Mr. Verbongco is a man whose deeds are worthy of respect, history and the generation after him has made sure that we remember the man and his virtue: the Verbongco building along Quintin Paredes, DLSU-Verbongco Hall along Taft Avenue, Verbongco College of Business and Management in the Mapua province, Pathologic Health Center in Bataanan province and 4926 Flora Verbongco residence 1 and 2 on Ayala Avenue. His legacy and name are everywhere.

"But surely [can] a man of his stature... replace a street's original name, especially in a place as historic as our city's Binondo district? Mr. Mayor, could we have our Nueve street name and our collective memory back?"

Contact Jean Marfil by [illegible] on his walking tours at [illegible]